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A
JOURNAL OF A TOUR
THROUGH
**CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS,
NEW-YORK,**
THE NORTH PART OF
PENNSYLVANIA AND OHIO,
INCLUDING A YEAR'S RESIDENCE IN THAT PART
OF THE STATE OF OHIO,
STYLED
NEW CONNECTICUT,
OR
WESTERN RESERVE.

In which is given,

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY, CLIMATE, SOIL,
PRODUCTIONS, ANIMALS, BUILDINGS, MAN-
NERS OF THE PEOPLE, STATE OF
SOCIETY, POPULATION, &c.

From actual and careful Observation.

BY ZERAH HAWLEY, A. M.

NEW-HAVEN:
PRINTED BY S. CONVERSE,
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DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT, ss.



BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the sixteenth day of February, in the forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States of America, ZERAH HAWLEY, of the said District, hath deposited in this Office the title of a book, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the words following—to wit: “A Journal of a Tour through Connecticut, Massachusetts, New-York, the north part of Pennsylvania and Ohio, including a year’s residence in that part of the State of Ohio, styled New Connecticut, or Western Reserve, in which is given a description of the country, climate, soil, productions, animals, buildings, manners of the people, state of society, population, &c. From actual and careful observation. By Zerah Hawley, A. M. In conformity to the Act of the Congress of the United States, entitled “An Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the Authors and Proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned.”

CHAS. A. INGERSOLL,

Clerk of the District of Connecticut.

A true copy of Record, examined and sealed by me.

CHAS. A. INGERSOLL,

Clerk of the District of Connecticut.

PREFACE.

IT may be thought necessary for me to give the public some reasons for writing, and especially for publishing the following sheets.

The motives which induced me to write the observations and remarks which I have made, was, *primarily*, to gratify my friends, with what I conceive to be a true and just account of the places through which I passed, and of those in which I, for a time resided; and *secondly*, to impress them more strongly upon my own mind.

The following pages were not, at first, designed to come before the public; but upon reflection, it appeared to me a duty incumbent upon me, to give them publicity, in order, in some measure, to undeceive the community, respecting a portion of the Western country, which has been represented as an *earthly Paradise*, where every thing necessary, every thing convenient, and almost every thing which is considered as a luxury, might be had almost without care, labour or exertion.

It seemed to me proper, also, and not only proper, but an imperative obligation imposed on me, to give what I know to be a true and faithful account of the privations and disadvantages, under which the inhabitants of that part of the country in which I resided for near a year, in common with other new countries, far removed from the

old settled parts of the country, and from an advantageous market, labour, and with which they have to contend, in despair of removing them, at least during the life of the present generation, and with little hope that the succeeding generation can enjoy many of the privileges of an old settled and highly favoured country.

Another reason for the publication of this small work was, a desire to give information to those who wish to remove to a new and unimproved country, of that part, which I conceive to be most desirable and advantageous of any, through which I have travelled.

A very important motive for publishing what I have written, is, to prevent the evil effects that may arise from the high sounding recommendations, (in most cases totally unfounded in fact,) of land speculators. These evils are, persons selling their property at a great loss in many cases, the expense of removing to Ohio or some other remote State or Territory, which swallows up a great proportion of their property, incapacitating them to pay for farms taken, disappointments of all kinds, on arriving at the place of destination, and in most cases an inability to return, however much it may be desired, in consequence of the impossibility of procuring the means of returning.

It may, and probably will be thought, that I have represented the sufferings and deprivations of the inhabitants of Ohio, in too strong terms ; but I am ready to answer to the facts, as my assertions and remarks were, in most cases, made according to my own personal observation, and if

in any case through the work, I have asserted any thing of which I had not personal knowledge, it was from authority which might be implicitly relied upon.

Any defects in composition, style or description, (as defects, no doubt, will be discovered, as I make no claims to perfection,) it is hoped a candid and enlightened public will overlook, or censure with as much mildness as the nature of the case will admit.

If the following work should be the means of innocently amusing, of instructing and of benefiting the community or individuals, the object of the author will be accomplished.

TRAVELS, &c.

Monday, Sept. 11th, 1820.

DEAR BROTHER,

AFTER leaving your house for Ohio, I travelled this day through Canton, New-Hartford, and Barkhamsted, to Sandisfield, on the great western turnpike from Hartford to Albany. The face of the country, you very well know, is very uneven and stony, and in many places rocky and precipitous. Much of Canton is excellent land, producing all kinds of grain, roots, garden vegetables, &c. &c.; and even the broken lands are excellent for pasturage.

In this town is a *vineyard*, on the south side of the mountain, which has produced excellent Madeira grapes, and from which, a few years since, were manufactured very good raisins.

This is a town of no remarkable notoriety.

New-Hartford much resembles Canton in every particular. The Farmington river runs through both of these townships. In New-Hartford, just below the place where the great road crosses the river, it is very much contracted in width, and passes through the mountain, or rather between two very lofty and rugged hills, where is a fall of some feet, and on this fall is erected a grist and

saw mill. The water below is rapid, and the bottom rocky for a considerable distance. On the west side of these rapids is a very narrow path, leading up the mountain, and then down again into *Satan's Kingdom*, which is a valley surrounded on all sides by lofty hills, and inhabited by three or four families, who are not remarkable for their honesty, as might be expected from the kingdom which they inhabit.

Barkhamsted is excessively hilly and rocky ; but there is in it some good arable land, much good pasturage, and a large quantity of unimprovable land. It is (I think) of all places that I have seen, the last I should choose for a residence. The Farmington river runs through the whole length of this township, tumbling and foaming with great agitation over a bed of granite rocks, which together with the precipitous mountains on each side, clothed in perpetual green, forms much wild, picturesque and romantic scenery. The inhabitants of this place are few and scattered, and some of them extremely poor.

The distance from Farmington to Sandisfield is 27 miles. Put up at Z. Hawley's tavern ; found Mr. H. an obliging man ; his wife was rather morose and crabbed ; but as I was only a pilgrim and stranger, thought little of it.

Sept. 12.—This morning after I had travelled about three miles, I entered a very thick forest of evergreen, composed of the lofty hemlock, spruce, and a large species of laurel, which continued for four miles without an inhabitant, the road following the course of the Farmington river.

Here is scenery rude and horrible enough for the "Romance of the Forest," and it is like to be perpetual, as I think no one would choose to settle there, who could find any other spot, on which to set his foot. Saw no settlement of any consequence in this township. The remarks which I have made above concerning Sandisfield, will, in almost all points, apply to some part of Becket, Otis, and Lee, while other parts contain land of a very good quality for grazing. I put up at Couch's, a very decent house, having travelled the distance of twenty miles.

Sept. 13.—I passed through a part of Becket, through Stockbridge, West-Stockbridge, Canaan, Chatham and Nassau to Schodack, a distance of about thirty-seven miles. The road was all the way very good, although the country is a good deal uneven.

Stockbridge is a very handsome place, containing many fine houses, stores, &c. The soil, much of it, of an excellent quality, and the site of the village is almost a perfect level. Between this place and West-Stockbridge, the traveller has to pass a very considerable mountain, at or near the foot of which, on the west side, is situated the last mentioned village, which is not of much note.—All the places through which I passed this day, contain much good grazing land.—At night, I put up at Whitbeck's inn, which is a very neat Dutch tavern; the landlord and his wife are very obliging people. This place (Schodack) is seven miles east of Albany.

Sept. 14.—Passed through Albany and Schenectady, and put up at Venep's, on the Mohawk

river. This was the first house where men, women and children, strangers to each other, were obliged to sleep in one room. This circumstance was very abhorrent to my feelings; but there was no way of avoiding it, unless by setting up in the bar-room all night, and I felt too much fatigued to consent to that mode of passing the night.

The city of Albany was incorporated in 1686. It is situated on the west bank of the Hudson river, near the head of sloop navigation; about one hundred and sixty miles by water north of New-York. It was founded by the Dutch in 1623, and at that time was called Fort-Orange. Most of the streets are narrow and crooked. State-street and some others are broad and well paved. This city is the seat of government for the State of New-York. The capitol is an elegant stone building fronting on State-street. The situation of the capitol is elevated, the ascent from the river on State-street being very rapid. In front is a very beautiful circular green, containing one or two acres, enclosed by a handsome white paling.

On the north of the capitol is a very large and elegant stone academy, two stories high.

There are ten or twelve houses for public worship, belonging to various denominations of Christians, viz. Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Dutch Reformed, High Dutch, Catholics, Friends, and Methodists.

Population of this city is between 10,000 and 12,000. Albany is a place of considerable commercial importance, as almost the whole business of the north and western part of the State of New-

York, the north part of Pennsylvania, the north part of Ohio, and of the great western Lakes, centre here. And it is likely to become a place of much more consequence, when the Western Canal, (which is rapidly progressing towards a conclusion,) shall be finished.

The face of the country from Albany to Schenectady, is what would be called even, although there are some few hills; but for a great extent it is a level, pine barren, the soil being so poor, as to be scarcely worth possessing, with the exception of a few farms, which look well. The road between these two places is founded on sand, but with the assistance of paving, is most of the way good. From Albany to Schenectady is a distance of fifteen miles, and almost every house is a tavern.

Schenectady is situated on the south bank of the Mohawk, about fifteen miles west of the mouth of the river. It was built by the Dutch about the year 1696.

The streets are crooked, narrow and dirty, and mostly paved, (as well the side walks as the centre of them,) with round stone, making the walking very uneasy and fatiguing. All the buildings, except those of modern date, are of the *Dutch order* or architecture. The modern buildings are many of them handsome; but on the whole it is an uncouth, disagreeable looking place.

The public buildings are, the College, an Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Dutch Church. Population about 6,000.

Palatine, Sept. 15th, 1820.

DEAR SIR,

This day I travelled near the Mohawk, a fine river, containing many small fertile Islands. The current is rapid, but navigable for batteaux, as far as Utica. The meadows on this part of the Mohawk are narrow, and the surrounding country is composed of lofty mountains, presenting their naked fronts to view, with the exception of a few intervals for the distance of twenty or thirty miles. Put up at Fox's tavern, a very poor house, in Palatine. Distance travelled thirty-three miles.

Sept. 16.—Passed through Little-Falls, Herkimer, and Germantown, to Schuyler, a distance of twenty-nine miles, and put up at Smith's, who keeps an excellent house. The flats on the Mohawk through these towns, with the exception of Little-Falls, are broad, and the soil of excellent quality, producing nearly as luxuriant crops as almost any parts of our country. The soil is very black and deep, and it is improved from year to year, without manuring, and without impoverishing it.

As you approach the village of Little-Falls, the lofty mountains approach the Mohawk on each side of the river, quite to the water's edge, or rather, (more properly speaking,) at this place the river rushes through a deep chasm in the mountain, tumbling and foaming with great agitation over and among huge masses of rock, for the distance of a mile or more, forming what is called the Little-Falls of the Mohawk. At the head of these

rapids, on the north bank of the river, on elevated ground, is situated the romantic and flourishing village of Little-Falls.

The buildings in this place are many of them made of stones from the neighbouring hills, which are of a slate colour and very durable. Some of the buildings are large and three stories high.

On the Great Western Canal, at these rapids, are five locks, completed at great labour and expence, as the canal for the whole extent of the rapids, is excavated in the rocks to the depth of many feet, and the locks are all built with hewn stone laid in lime mortar, which is the manner in which all the locks on the canal are built.

Since I have spoken of the Canal, I will in this place remark, that its course from Schenectady to Utica is on the south side of the Mohawk, most of the distance close by its banks, and in many places so near, that the earth from the Canal is thrown into the river. In other places its distance from the river may be from one to three miles.

Herkimer is an old, large and handsome village, situated on the extensive flats of the Mohawk, which at this place, says Dr. Morse, have been cultivated for many years, and have lost none of their fertility.

Sept. 17—Travelled through Utica, New-Hartford, Westmoreland, the village of Manchester in Clinton, Vernon to Lenox thirty-eight miles, and put up at Webb's, one of the best houses I have met with on the road, and the most obliging landlord. Utica is situated on the south bank of the Mohawk,

one hundred miles west of Albany, in that tract of country which was called Whitestown. It is the finest, most flourishing, and most commercial village of the West. At this place centre a number of turn-pikes, through which the Canal passes, and it imports and exports vast quantities of provisions and merchandize. It is very compactly built, and its streets are named, its side-walks paved, and has all the appearance of a city in miniature. It contains, probably, 4,000 inhabitants. According to information which I received on the spot, it contained thirty-three years ago but three buildings, and they were log buildings. Now it is well built, mostly of brick, and contains four churches, two banks, has a Canal passing through it, on which are many boats, which will carry from forty to seventy tons. The boats for passengers are commodious, and fitted with accommodations equal to the best steam-boats.

Utica, from its local situation on the Canal, and in one of the finest countries in the world, is calculated to become one of the largest inland towns in the United States. All the villages mentioned in connection with it, are flourishing, and the soil good.

Sept. 18.—Went through Canaseragua, Chittininago, Manlius, Orvill, Salina to Elbridge village in Cammellus. Distance thirty-five miles.

Chittininago is a small village containing about 300 people, and one small house for public worship. It is situated in a narrow, low valley, between two high sand hills. The soil is marshy, and the waters sulphurous, emitting an unpleas-

ant smell of *sulphuretted hydrogen gas*. The people are uncommonly healthy, notwithstanding their sunken situation. To the north the valley widens, and the soil appears to be equal to the flats of the Mohawk.

At Salina I crossed the Canal, and saw the very beautiful lake of Onondaga on the right hand. Much salt is made at this place, and that of the best quality of fine salt, being equal in whiteness to the new fallen snow.

The village of Elbridge has nothing remarkable.

Sept. 20, 1821.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

This day I travelled through Brutus across the Cayuga on the lower bridge at the outlet of the Lake, and crossed a log-way a mile and three quarters in length, which brought to my mind the "everlasting wood-piles" spoken of in a little work, entitled "The other side of Ohio." From Brutus to Seneca village by this north road, the distance is three miles farther than by the upper or long bridge, and the travelling six miles worse. I would, therefore, caution all persons travelling to Waterloo, Geneva, or farther west, to avoid the north road, and to choose the south, or the one that leads across the long bridge from Aurelius to Junius, as the other road is a vile imposition upon the public, in its present situation, as the logs are entirely uncovered, and many of them are from six inches to a foot in height. I met the

South road at Seneca village on the Seneca Falls, and passed on to Waterloo and put up at Thayer's, which is a good tavern.

Seneca village appears to be a busy little place, of some importance. Waterloo is quite a flourishing town, which has been built since the late war.

Here is a large brick court-house, built in very handsome style, a church, one or two large three-story brick hotels, and many other handsome brick and wooden buildings; and the place may contain from 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants.

A canal, connecting Seneca with the Grand Western Canal, passes through this place and Seneca village. There are a number of locks in the course of the canal. Travelled twenty-five miles.

Sept. 21.—I passed through Geneva, Canan-dagua and some small towns, to East-Bloomfield, and put up at a large brick tavern, supposing that I should find good accommodations; but was most unpleasantly disappointed. Here I would caution travellers not to trust to external appearances; but before they have their horses put out, to examine the inside of things, for very many times, they will find a most filthy inside, when the external appearance is fair and inviting. Besides, if a person wishes to travel *cheap*, he ought by all means, if he is travelling to the West, (and I believe the remark will hold good as a general rule,) to choose the best houses he can find.

Geneva is one of the most delightful towns to be met with in this Western part of the country.

It is situated on the high Western bank of the Seneca Lake, at its Northern extremity.

From the town is an extensive view of this beautiful lake, and a vast extent of the surrounding country, the soil of which is rich, almost without a parallel. The place is well built, and has a bank, three houses for public worship, and is a place where a good deal of business is done. Between Cayuga and Seneca Lakes is a tract of country, as good probably, as any of equal extent in the whole State of New-York.

Canandagua has been said to be the handsomest place in New-York. This may be so ; but to my view, it does not exceed in beauty of situation, or of remote prospect, the town of Geneva : But it is without dispute, a finely situated place, and in itself very delightful.

Its location is at the North extremity of the Canandagua lake, of which, and the surrounding country, you have an extensive and enchanting prospect.

The place is built principally on one street, which commences at the lake, and extends North nearly two miles. In the town are a number of elegant gentlemen's residences, many stores, two banks, three houses for public worship, &c. &c. It combines the beauty of the country, in a good degree, with many of the advantages of the City.

The number of inhabitants in Geneva and Canandagua, I should judge, is about the same, and may be 2,000. The extent of my travels this day is thirty-one miles.

Sept. 22.—Passed through East and West-Bloomfield, Lima, Genesee District, Caledonia to Le Roy, staid at Marvin's, who keeps a good house.

My progress this day was thirty-three miles.

East and West-Bloomfield are pleasant villages, each containing a number of well built houses, some stores, &c. These are excellent townships of land, and are situated on elevated ground. Passed the Genesee river on a handsome toll bridge, and came immediately on to the flats, which at this place are on the West of the river, and are from one and a half miles to two miles in width. Here, and for a great extent up and down the Genesee, the soil is as good, probably, as soil can be, producing according to authentic accounts all kinds of grain in the greatest abundance. An acre, planted with maize, will produce one hundred bushels. Wheat is the principal grain cultivated in this part of New-York, which is true of all the territory through which I have passed West of Albany.

Rye is cultivated to a considerable extent for the distilleries, and barley for the breweries.

About two or three miles after crossing the Genesee, I arrived at the village of Genesee Indians, which contains from ten to fifteen small log huts, scattered without order over a space which may contain three or four acres of ground. The appearance of these Indians is *filthy and miserable*, notwithstanding they possess a large tract of the most fertile country on the Genesee Flats. The soil in their village is indifferent; but

it is but a few rods removed from their rich soil. They possess a few horses, and other domestic animals.

From Genesee village to Caledonia, a distance of six or eight miles, the face of the country is flat, and the soil poor. The natural growth upon the land is white oak, pine, and shrub oak, and the land such as we should expect it would be, from a knowledge of the soil in New-England, where the timber is of the kind before mentioned. On this plain, there are few inhabitants, and not a stream or spring of water from Genesee river to Caledonia.

Caledonia is a village, of no very great importance, settled almost entirely by Dutch people.

At this place is a large pond of sulphurous water, supplied entirely by springs arising within it, having a stream passing out of it, large enough to form excellent mill seats within a few rods of the pond.

Near this place commences a lime-stone country, which continues for a long distance to the Westward.

Sept. 23.—Passed through a tract of country thinly settled; face of the country uneven and stony, and stopped at Porter's, fourteen miles East of Buffalo.

Sept. 24.—From Porter's to Buffalo I passed through a tract of land almost entirely unsettled. Country uneven, road good. From the native forest, Buffalo bursts at once upon the view. On all sides, except the West, which looks towards the lake, within the distance of a mile, it is in-

closed by lofty forests, in which the sound of the woodman's axe was never heard till within the space of a few years : And at this time stumps of trees stand thick in the high way till you enter the very streets of the village.

Buffalo is situated at the outlet of Lake Erie, on the East side of Niagara river.

Every building in this place was burnt to the ground, by the British, in the late war, except one small block-house belonging to a widow woman. It is now rebuilt in handsome style, and much enlarged. It is built principally on one long street, running North and South, and contains many large and handsome brick houses and stores, which are abundantly supplied with all kinds of merchandise.

Here are many brick buildings, three stories high, among them are two or three excellent hotels.—The public buildings are : an Episcopal church, built in the Gothic style, and is a very handsome building ; a court-house of brick, which is spacious and handsome, a bank, and a log-jail. This is the *Etape grande* for all the merchandise passing through the whole extent of the great Western Lakes. At this place, or Black Rock, the Western canal will enter. Buffalo possesses a tolerably good harbour, and were it not, that when the West wind blows down the lake, a sand-bar is formed at the mouth of the harbour, it would be very good. Black Rock being about two and a half miles below on the river Niagara, is exempt from this evil. Buffalo contains about 2,000 inhabitants, and is one of the busiest places

of its size any where to be found. It is a very pleasantly situated place, as from it we have a view of the lake as far as the eye can reach, and of a very rich surrounding country on each side.

The view of the Canada side is rich, beautiful and luxuriant.

In this place I saw many Indians, dressed in their own peculiar style.

Travelled on from Buffalo through a tract of country of about four miles in extent, of excellent land, but few inhabitants.

Mile-Creek runs through this tract, and about six miles from Buffalo is an Indian settlement, containing about 400 warriors.

Commencing four miles from Buffalo the road runs on the beach of the lake for the distance of four miles. Much of this distance the travelling is very fatiguing to horses, at all times, in consequence of the deep sand of the beach: But when the lake is rough from the violence of the wind, the whole distance is bad beyond any idea which is formed by a person who has never travelled in a similar situation; because at such times the traveller is obliged to keep such a distance from the lake, as to bring him into the deepest sand upon the shore, where horses will sink into it over their houghs, and a waggon with any weight of consequence, over the fellows. When a storm has continued for a considerable length of time, and is succeeded by a calm, the traveller may pass close by the lake, where he will most of the way find the sand hard, and the travelling good. In consequence of the roughness of the lake, I was

obliged to travel in the deep sand, and one of my horses tired, and I was obliged to leave my waggon on the lake shore, a mile from the tavern, with all the baggage, which remained safe all night. Put up at Barker's, eight miles from Buffalo, a very good house, and very obliging people. Distance travelled, twenty-two miles.

Sept. 25.—This morning I hired a pair of oxen to bring my waggon to Barker's, which place I left, and travelled through a very thinly settled country, some of the way on the beach of the lake, and some of the way on the high banks of the lake, which was all the way in view, and the Canada shore opposite. Saw Sugar-Loaf hill in Canada, and some settlements, names unknown.

Distance travelled this day fourteen miles, road bad, being sometimes in the deep sand, some of the distance on the high land, and some of the way on the smooth rocky bottom of the lake, and put up at Eden, at a log-house kept by a widow woman by the name of Salisbury, on the lake shore. Saw a number of vessels this day under sail on the lake.

Here I would remark, that when the lake is smooth, the traveller may pass on a bottom of smooth slate rock, from one to ten rods into the water, where he will find by much the best travelling, as there is no stumps nor sloughs; but a very smooth hard foundation for his horse to set his foot on.

Much of the way this day I found the main shore of the lake fifty feet perpendicular height, composed of alum and sulphur slate. The rocks

in the lake on which you travel, are slate, of as fine a quality, as any I ever saw, containing spherical masses of a much harder consistence, which also appear to be slate.

Sept. 26.—I travelled ten miles, four of which are what is called the Four-mile Woods, and crossed the Cataraugus Creek, and stopped at Mack's. My road was upon the high bank of the lake, which is, for a great extent, a perpendicular ledge of slate-rock, from one hundred to two hundred feet in height. Much of the distance travelled, the road lay close on the edge of this precipice. Land generally of tolerably good quality.

The road through the Four-mile Woods was extremely bad, it being almost impossible in some places to get along in consequence of deep mud, which would take a waggon in up to the axle-tree, and then it would be immediately raised out again by means of stumps, or roots, which cross the road, and this plunging and ascension succeeding each other almost every rod.

In some places there would be a deep gully on one side and a stump on the other, rendering it almost impossible to pass without upsetting. At one place, I came very near being precipitated down the ledge into the lake in leading my horses round a deep slough; but fortunately I turned in time to prevent this misfortune, although I did not see my danger till it was passed.

On Cataraugus Creek, in my opinion, is the best land I have seen on my rout; but it is unsettled, as the Indian title is not extinguished. About

four miles up the creek from the lake is a settlement of the Cataraugus Indians, containing from four to six hundred individuals.

This creek at the ferry, which is about one quarter of a mile from Lake Erie, is about ten rods wide, and deep enough for vessels of one hundred tons to lie in; but it is useless as a harbour, in consequence of a sand-bar at its mouth.

At this place I found a great abundance of peaches of good quality; I saw also a most excellent smoke-house, made of a hollow sicamore log, ten feet high, and six feet in diameter, having a roof neatly shingled, and a convenient door on one side, large enough for a person to enter with perfect ease in an erect posture.

I have also seen a number of wells, in which hollow sicamore logs were sunk, answering the purpose of stone, and forming the curb also.

Sept. 27.—Travelled twenty-seven miles this day, passing through Fredonia, formerly called Canandaway, to Portland. Fredonia is quite a handsome village, and appears to be increasing. A considerable business is done here. Manufactories of various kinds are established here, and there are many handsome dwellings; here is a printing press, &c. &c. but no church. This place may contain about 1,500 people. As this place bursts upon the view from the native forest through which you pass, it has a very pleasing effect upon the mind, taking you as it were by surprise, presenting you the unexpected appearance of industry, wealth, and civilization.

Sept. 28.—I passed through Ripley, and crossed the New-York State line into North-East, or Gibsonville, in Pennsylvania, which is a small village, in which is a neat Presbyterian church, with a steeple, one or two stores, three or four taverns, &c. &c.

Next in order is the town of Erie, formerly Presque-Isle, which is a very flourishing place, situated at the head of a beautiful bay, which makes up to the South from Lake Erie, forming the best harbour on the American side of the lake. Here the United States ships of war on this lake are laid up, most of which are sunk to prevent decay. In this bay ships may lie in safety ; but there is a bar at its mouth, making the entrance somewhat difficult. This place is the capital of the County of Erie, in Pennsylvania, and may contain from 1,200 to 1,500 inhabitants, and appears to be a place of considerable business, and will probably at some future time become a station of much importance. The soil in this village, and East of it, is of good quality ; but immediately West of it the quality of the land is indifferent, and the face of the country uneven, composed of sand hills, and the timber principally chesnut, with some beach, &c.

Travelled thirty-one and a half miles.

Sept. 29.—Came from North-East to Wilcox's tavern, fifty rods East of the Pennsylvania and Ohio State line, twenty-five miles. Nothing peculiar in the face of the country, soil or productions. Inhabitants few and poor, and the houses almost entirely made of logs.

Sept. 30.—Crossed the State line and entered Ohio, the *fabled region* of the West. I say *fabled region*, because more, much more has been said about the State, than has any foundation in truth. It has been compared to Canaan, and even extolled above it. It has been called the *Garden of America*, and many other high sounding titles have been given to it, which it is needless and superfluous to mention.

My way this day was through Salem, Kingsville, Ashtabula, a part of Wrightsburg, to Austinburg, where I shall remain a short time, and make a few observations respecting this and the adjacent country.

Salem is situated on the Conneaught Creek, on which there is some good land; but much of the land in this township is poor and sandy.

There are 1,000 inhabitants in all this township, one or two stores, two taverns on the main road, two very handsome framed dwelling-houses, one belonging to Col. Fyfield, and the other to a Mr. Keys, which are quite handsome seats, and the owners are wealthy. The course of this creek is through a deep ravine, and it is very serpentine, which is the case with all the streams, both small and great, generally throughout the Reserve.

Kingsville, as far as appears from the road, is a poor sandy soil, and the natural growth, small white oak, pine, hemlock, beach, maple and white wood.

Ashtabula is situated on a creek of the same name. It contains between 700 and 800 inhabit-

ants. In this town are three very large whiskey distilleries, and a number of smaller ones, and one brewery. Here are three stores, three or four taverns; but no church belonging to any denomination.

There is some very good land and some poor in this town, and some parts of the township near Lake Erie is almost covered with small round stone, from the size of a hen's egg, to the magnitude of a man's head.

From the Lake, which is two miles and a half from the village, commences a turnpike which runs to Warren, the Capitol of Trumbull County. In summer this is an excellent road; but in the spring and autumn, it is excessively muddy, as it is all the way built of a stiff clay.

Of Wrightsburg, Austinburg, &c. I shall say more, in a subsequent letter. Distance travelled to day twenty-five miles, making the distance from Farmington in Connecticut, to Austinburg in Ohio, five hundred and fifty-two and a half.

I was much disappointed upon my arrival in this State, to find it so much more thinly settled, than from all accounts I had heard, I had reason to expect, and to discover so few marks of wealth, and so frequent and great appearances of poverty and distress.

Austinburgh, Oct. 1st. 1820.

DEAR BROTHER,

I arrived in this part of the country the last day of September. This day rode to Harpersfield to see a sick woman, through the woods about a mile; the road so bad in consequence of the abundance of stumps, roots and mud, that I could ride only upon a slow walk; and entered for the first time in my life into a log-house with one room without any fire-place, the log being laid against the logs of the house and the fire built in front.

In consequence of this manner of building the fire, some of the logs were entirely burnt in two, and many were much injured by the fire. The furniture of the house consisted of a bed, laid upon a bedsted made of saplings of suitable size, (having bark on) with holes bored to receive the legs which were made of the same materials.—Three or four indifferent chairs, a chest or two, a few articles of hollow ware, two or three shelves made by boring holes into the logs of the house, into which were inserted pins of wood upon which rough boards were laid, forming the whole pantry of the house, containing a few articles of crockery. Furniture for the fire consisted of two stones which answered the purpose of andirons, and a wooden poker which performed the double office of shovel and tongs. A large hole through the roof, answered the two-fold purpose of a vent for the smoke, and the admission of light. The house was also lighted and ventilated by many

large cracks or spaces between the logs, which in winter are sometimes filled with clay, and many times are left without filling through the year, for the purpose (perhaps) of preventing pestilential diseases, as in many cases little pains is taken to keep their habitations cleanly, and in all it is utterly impossible that neatness should exist in consequence of the continual falling of clay from the crevices between the logs, and of bark with which the roof is in many instances covered, and the constant accumulation of mud which is brought into the only room in the house in great profusion. This is not an exaggerated picture; but a reality, and will in most particulars answer for a general description of most of the houses in this part of the country, others there are, a few comfortable framed houses, and some far worse than what I have described, as I shall presently show. Some of the inhabitants say, "that it is against the law to have any chimney until three of the logs of the house are burnt in two:" and when chimneys are built in log houses, and in some of the framed ones, they are made with a brick or stone back without any jambs, and no front, till they ascend as far as the chamber floor, where the flue properly begins, which is made of small split sticks somewhat resembling laths, and covered within and without with clay, which answers the purpose of brick or stone.

October 2.—Spent the day in viewing the town of A. in which the land is generally good and much of it excellent. The soil is clay covered with a thick layer of rich mould, and producing

in abundance, wheat, corn, potatoes and grass. Fruit trees seldom produce fruit in this place or any of the towns which are removed from the immediate vicinity of Lake Erie, until you get back as far South as Hartford. The cause why the fruit trees are unproductive where they are cultivated is, the late frosts. In Geneva, Harpersfield, Madison and the ridge towns generally, fruit trees of all kinds that are cultivated do well, producing in great abundance, the best of their kinds.

October 3.—Rode to Harpersfield to see a Mr. P. and child who were sick with the intermittent fever. Mrs. P. says they have but little ambition, having lost most of their property in moving and since they arrived in this part of the country. In Connecticut she said they lived in very decent style, for people in the middling class of society there; but here it is with difficulty that they can procure any thing more than enough to eat: as for clothing, it is not to be got without money, and money at this time cannot be obtained for any article of produce, but tallow at any price. Wheat and rye are taken at the stores for a few cotton goods at 44 cents the bushel, and corn at 25 cents. Last night rode to a different part of the town of H——d across the Grand River. The night was excessively dark, the road muddy, full of roots and stones, and being in great haste (as it was in case of midwifery) I rode in imminent danger of breaking my neck. However, I got along safely, for which I was very thankful.

This night I thought I was initiated into the pleasures of a Physician's life, in a country like New-Connecticut, or *the fabled regions of the West.*

October 4, 5, and 6.—No remarkable occurrences different from what happened on the third.

October 7.—Rode to a part of H——d, to see a child sick of the intermittent fever, whose parents with two children, lived in what is here called a *Shanty*. This is a hovel of about ten feet by eight, made somewhat in the form of an ordinary cow-house, having but an half roof, or roof on one side. It is however, inclosed on all sides. The furniture in this Shanty, was much more rude, and less abundant than in the ordinary houses. The bed extended across the end opposite the door within about two feet leaving a space at the foot for a barrel or two, and an area in front of about six feet by eight in which were performed all the domestic operations.

I need not give a description of the furniture, as every one can imagine for themselves what it must, or rather, what it *must not* be.

October 13.—Visited the child above-mentioned, and found it much bloated in consequence of a violent cold it had taken during the operation of a mercurial-cathartic, from the roof leaking in every part in such a manner that it *could not* be kept dry in any part of the building, unless it had taken shelter under the bed.

Thus my dear Brother, I have attempted in this letter, (which I fear will weary you by its length,) attempted to give you an imperfect de-

scription of a few things which I have seen. In my next, I shall continue the account of any occurrences, which I shall think may be interesting to you, by which you will learn my candid opinion, respecting the advantages you would derive by removing to this part of the country, according to your present intention. Wishing you all the happiness you can desire, I remain your affectionate Brother.

Geneva, (Ohio) Oct. 20, 1820.

DEAR BROTHER,

According to my promise, I proceed to give you some further account of this country.

The face of the country South of the ridge, is generally very level, with the exception of a few ravines, at the bottom of which flow small streams or brooks, here called creeks, forming a few mill-seats.

The soil is in most cases clay, with a superstratum of rich vegetable mould. The productions are, wheat, rye, all of which or nearly all, is distilled into *whiskey*, which, (with the exception of water,) is the principal drink of the inhabitants, as there are but few orchards from which cider is yet made, and foreign spirits or wine is hardly known here. Besides this use of rye, the people prepare it as a substitute for coffee.

The other productions of the soil are Indian corn, oats, flax, potatoes, garden vegetables, and

grass. A considerable quantity of Indian corn, and some wheat, is converted into whiskey. A bushel of corn is given for a gallon of whiskey, and five quarts of the same spirit is bought for a bushel of wheat or rye. The nominal price of wheat and rye is fifty cents per bushel; but may be bought for a much less sum with money. In fact, no one offers money for any article at any price unless it is tallow and the *black salts* or crude potash. Indeed this last article of commerce will not buy salt for less than \$6 for a barrel, whereas, \$4 50 money will buy the same quantity. The ridge-towns, or those towns lying on the Lake, and extending back five miles, are uneven, having many steep hills, and deep gullies. The soil is in general sandy, but of tolerable good quality, producing much the same articles as that part of the country before mentioned: but it is by no means as good for grazing.

The timber of these towns is, beech, chesnut and sugar-maple in great abundance; oak and sycamore in sufficient abundance, some wild-cherry and black walnut and cucumber tree. This last bears a fruit somewhat resembling a cucumber in form, of a red or almost scarlet colour and about an inch long, which is used as a bitter by the people here, and is a tolerably good tonic. The forests in other towns on the Reserve are much the same, only that they have not a sufficiency of chesnut in many instances, and in addition have much hemlock. In almost all instances, the land is covered with a heavy growth of timber.

October 25.—The weather till this date was mild and generally pleasant this month; but the rains have fallen in some considerable quantity, and the roads are much more muddy, than when I arrived here. On the 20th I was called from A——g to R——g, to see a man who had been much injured by a limb falling from the height of about seventy feet, directly upon the top of his head, and who it was feared would die before I should have an opportunity to see him. The messenger urged me forward, and I came very near breaking my own neck, by riding a dark night in full speed through one of the worst roads in this country. I bled the man, and examined his head and found it most awfully fractured.

Next morning assisted in trepanning the patient above-mentioned, removed *forty-six* pieces of bone, and found the membranes inclosing the brain perforated by the small fragments of the bone in many places. The man died two days after the operation, having been insensible from the time the accident happened.

I was made to understand, before I came to the Reserve that vegetation was wonderfully luxuriant here, almost beyond a parallel; so that the grass growing by the road-side, was equal, if not superiour to the best pastures in Connecticut. But to my surprise, I found not only roads, but the pastures almost destitute of vegetation. Some allowance must be made for the drought, which had continued for a number of weeks. But making all the concession of this kind which the nature of the circumstances require, I do not think

that vegetation is much if any more luxuriant than in the old settled Eastern States. Indeed, I know many towns in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as Farmington, Cheshire, Milford, and most of the towns on Connecticut river, which naturally produce as much, and by the present mode of cultivation, more than the best lands in this part of the country.

On the whole there is no difficulty in procuring enough to eat, if people are industrious ; but in many towns here, industry is not so much the order of the day, as it is generally in the Eastern States. Some instances I know, of men who have no profession or trade but farming, who, instead of raising their provisions as they might, buy almost all of them, and pay for them by letting themselves out by the day.

Clothing is vastly more difficult to obtain. If persons can obtain sheep sufficient, and can raise flax enough for their own consumption, they may have plain clothes, which will be good enough for this part of the country. But sheep are yet scarce, and must be carefully penned from the wolves, as they still continue to destroy many.

From this and other causes, sheep are less numerous than the necessities of the people require, so that the present inhabitants are in general but indifferently clothed, both in summer and winter ; so much so, that except when dressed in their holiday clothes, (which in general are none of the most fashionable, convenient or comfortable,) a great proportion of the inhabitants are clothed in

such garments as the poorest class of people at the East would hardly think comfortable

This is not exaggeration, nor what I have heard ; but it is what I have myself seen, and can prove if it is necessary, by many witnesses.

I was myself told before I came here, that woollen cloths were plenty and cheap, so that I had no need to supply myself with flannel or fulled cloth, nor trouble myself with the transportation of such articles. But I find the contrary, as I have not by much inquiry found one yard, either of flannel or dressed cloths to sell since I arrived in this country. You will remark that I mean domestic cloths by what I have said above. There are a few flannels and dressed foreign cloths, all which are excessively dear, costing twice or three times as much as in New-England, and can be had only for money, which to most people amounts to prohibition, as they have not, (if one may believe their own words,) any money with which they may buy any thing. "Money, (say they,) is out of the question, as nothing they have to sell will bring money at any price."

Shoes are, if possible, still more difficult to be obtained. Leather cannot be had without the cash, so that here is the same difficulty as exists respecting cloths ; and besides this, here is but one shoemaker for three towns ! so that most children are *literally barefoot*, and cannot attend school till the middle of winter, and others cannot go at all, and some men and women are no better, as I have seen, and *many* are but a *little* removed from the same situation. This arises partly from

the want of leather, and partly from the want of shoemakers.

One case, my dear brother, I will relate, because it is fresh in my mind. I was at the house of a Mr. W——r, of H——d, a local preacher in the Methodist society, a few days since, whose wife I had attended some time previous. I found him at home, and enquired after his health. "Oh," said he, "I am shuffling about, almost barefoot," looking down upon his feet, upon which he had the soles of shoes, and the quarters, bound on his feet with tow strings. He remarked farther, "I cannot get leather without money, and of that I have none, and can buy none with any thing which I have to sell." I enquired how his wife was, and he said, "Oh! she's well, but *bare-foot*, and has not had a pair of shoes for six months," and added, "she almost wishes herself back again to the State of New-York, for there she could have tea, coffee, shoes, and whatever she wanted except wheat bread." I afterwards saw her, and she also assented to what I have above written. Many more sigh for the land of their nativity, some of whom *cannot* get back, and others are ashamed to return in their ragged state, having spent almost their all in moving to this Land of Promise, and since they have arrived here. Another case also in point I will relate, as I am also personally acquainted with some of the personages. Shoes and leather are so difficult to be had, and the leather is of such inferior quality, that some of the young ladies who attended the academy at B——n last summer, and were of

some of the first families in this part of the State, were obliged to wear their shoes, till the vamps were almost literally worn off, so that about one half of the foot was bare. This was owing to the scarcity of leather, as in this case, there was no want of the means of purchasing.

Your affectionate brother.

Geneva, (Ohio) Dec. 5th, 1820.

DEAR BROTHER,

I thank you for your kind and affectionate epistle, and shall make some remarks in answer to your inquiries respecting the weather in this part of the country. For a month past the weather has been very unsettled, scarcely a day has been pleasant; but we have had many parts of days warm and beautiful. Much rain has fallen, and many of the roads are almost impassable, in consequence of the deep mud.

In New-England and the Atlantic States generally, a person can, with a good degree of certainty, prognosticate from certain appearances, what kind of weather may be expected for a day or two, or perhaps a week, as when the sun sets clear, we foretel with confidence, that the next day will be fair, if it sets clear with a red atmosphere, that the succeeding day will be fair and warm, &c. But here there are no appearances in the least to be depended upon. This is the observation I have made since I have been here,

and it is the general remark of the people who have resided here for many years.

The weather here very frequently changes from fair and warm to cloudy and cold, in the space of two hours, then within another hour it will rain, hail, snow and blow a tremendous gale, which will last perhaps for fifteen minutes, and then die away, the sun will make his appearance with considerable warmth, and every prospect of fine weather; but instead of this, in a few minutes, rain, hail and snow, with tremendous wind, succeeds, and the changes will many times take place from six to twelve times in the twenty-four hours. We have had much of this kind of weather here the last autumn, and some pleasant and warm days have been followed by very unpleasant and sharp cold weather the next day.

On the 25th of last month, between 11 and 12 o'clock at night, I rode from G——a to R——g, and set up with a sick patient till about 2 o'clock. While riding, and till I retired to rest, it was almost uncomfortably warm. Within 15 minutes after I had got to bed, the wind changed and blew with such tremendous violence, that I feared the house might be blown down, and many people got up in the night with the same apprehensions. In the morning I found two or three inches of snow on the ground, and it continued snowing all the 26th, which was quite an uncomfortable day.

I never knew so variable and unsettled weather in any part of New-England or the Middle States, as I have known in the northern part of Ohio. Lake Erie and the towns bordering upon it are

very much subject to sudden squalls of wind, with rain, hail and snow, which causes the destruction of many vessels, the loss of many lives and much property, and many stately trees of the forest are up-turned by the roots. This is the case, especially in the fall months.

Much has been said respecting the clemency of the weather in Ohio, both by speculators and the inhabitants ; and each of them have their own peculiar motives. The former speak highly of the climate, in order to induce people to purchase their lands, and the latter do the same to induce people to come and settle among them in order to increase their numbers, and that they may sell their produce to the immigrants, each caring little, whether the truth is known, till people move into this highly extolled country, thinking (no doubt) that when they have arrived and tarried here long enough to learn the truth, they will be unable to return, and will of course be necessitated to abide where they have purchased, whether this is, or is not their inclination. Thus many by misrepresentation are induced to come and settle here, who have never seen any part of the State, who when they arrive, finding that they have been cheated not only in this point ; but in many others, spend the remainder of their days in discontent, poverty, wretchedness and despair. Of this fact I am certain, having learned it by frequent inquiries of many different people among all classes of society, so that with confidence, and without fear of contradiction, this is asserted to be as above stated.

The climate is not the only thing respecting this part of the country, about which people are deceived. They are told that the society is *good*: “As good,” say those who are interested in the assertion, “as in any of the country towns in the New-England States.” Nothing can be more untrue than this assertion; although it may be made by some who are highly pleased with the country, innocently, and without any intention to misrepresent the case: But others have their motives, and they are the same as before noticed: with this additional one; viz. the hope of improving their society, by the acquisition of new members of improved manners, who they think may be induced to come among them, if they can be persuaded that they can enjoy as good society as that to which they have been accustomed. But it is far, very far from being correct, that the society is as good as represented. Excepting a few respectable families, the society is such as is considered the most indifferent in the Eastern States, being ignorant, unpolished, and extremely anxious to pry into the concerns of others with whom they have no business, but merely to gratify curiosity.

Yours, &c.

Geneva, Jan. 1, 1821.

DEAR BROTHER,

I shall in this letter continue my remarks on the weather, and make what other observations may occur to my mind, which I hope may be entertaining to you. The temperature of the air through November and December was as severely cold as is experienced in Connecticut in the most inclement years, and vastly more changeable. Much snow fell in November, and the sleighing has been good through December, and there is a prospect that it may continue through this month at least. Many families are moving to this part of the country, and far on to the West of this in sleighs, and others are continually returning to the East, and many more design to do the same, and still greater numbers desire to do so, but have it not in their power. There are many reasons for these returns: viz. the indifferent society, the want of market, where they may dispose of their produce; the impossibility of procuring many articles, which by habit have become necessities of life, and the very great want of many other articles which are indispensably necessary to comfortable existence, such as *shoes, wearing apparel in general, beds and bedding, and convenient furniture for the house.*

I have heard many say, after residing here three or four years, that they had worn out what clothing, &c. they brought with them, and knew not how they should procure any supply.

Many people are literally barefoot, and they are so from necessity, in consequence of a scarcity of shoe-makers, and a dearth of leather: Besides, when leather can be procured, (which must be purchased with money, of which article a vast proportion of the inhabitants have not sufficient to pay for the leather which they need,) it is of very indifferent quality, being extremely spongy, and badly tanned, so that it will not do more than half the service of leather manufactured at the Eastward. There is the same difficulty in procuring other articles of cloathing and bedding.

The furniture of most houses is more scanty, if possible, than the foregoing articles. Few families have more than one indifferent table, and chairs of the plainest kind, and most of them either broken or worn out, just sufficient to accommodate the family; so that, should company call to see them, the guests or some part of the family must either stand or sit on the bed, or some stool or block of wood which is most convenient.

The furniture for the table is equally scanty and inconvenient. I once had occasion to dine with a family in H———d, in A———a county, where six of us set at the table. There was a plate for each of us, a large dish in the middle of the table contained the food. I had the good fortune to obtain a decent knife and fork, one of the family had a shoe-knife and a fork, another one (if I mistake not) an old raisor-blade with a wooden handle, and the other three were contented to obtain forks only. This was a family which has been here for *seventeen* years, and

have had time to be in a better situation. In the room of andirons, many families make use of what are here called *chunks*, which are the two brands of a large forestick, or billets of wood, cut on purpose for this use.

The articles of crockery are also very few and indifferent. Many people brought here with them, a good supply of good crockery, which is mostly broken, and its place partially supplied with very indifferent ware. Many broken-nosed tea-pots are to be seen, and others without a handle, the use of which is supplied by means of a bail made of iron wire, which is inserted into holes drilled through the earthen pot at opposite sides.

For want of a glass, or other convenient vessel, from which to drink, if you are offered whiskey, (which is the principal drink here,) the bottle is presented to you, or a bowl, or tea-cup containing the liquor.

Iron ware is no less scarce than other articles, sometimes a pot answering the four-fold purpose of pot, dish-kettle, tea-kettle, and brass-kettle. In other cases the tea-kettle or the dish-kettle answer the same purposes. In some cases the only tea-kettle which is to be found in a house is destitute of a lid, and one ear, so that the bail applies to the inside of the kettle, which is used in this manner.

All articles of iron manufactured in this part of the country are very heavy, and easily broken.

There is a manufactory of hollow-ware at Warren.

I am, dear Brother,
Yours, affectionately.

Geneva, Jan. 30, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

I will just give you a short account of the weather during this month. Through all the month the weather has been as severely cold, as I ever knew it in January in Connecticut. The 24th, 25th, and 26th, excessively cold; the 25th day and night in particular, as cold to the feelings as I ever experienced; but having no thermometer, could not measure the degrees. Snow fell more or less, *twenty-three* days in the month, and better sleighing could not be conceived than we have had here, during the month, and many families have passed by here in sleighs for the West; but as the weather begins to moderate, it is probable that many more families will be left without sleighing in the middle of their journey, and be necessitated to get on as they can. People at the East have been taught to believe, that the climate was so much more mild here than there, that stock might live in the pastures or in the woods through the winter, with little or no food from the barn; but the case this season at least has been far different, as much provender being required here as in other parts of the country.

Of the native animals of the country, the Elk, Deer, Panthers, Wolves, Bears, Oposums, Hedge-Hogs, Foxes, Skunks, White, Black, Red, and Striped Squirrels are the principal quadrupeds.

Of the feathered tribe there are Hawks in great abundance. Crows and Ravens are equally plenty; a large species of Woodpecker, and two or three smaller kinds, and Ducks are the principal.

The Elk is a noble animal, weighing sometimes eight hundred pounds, and very fat, and their meat is considered as equal, or superior to beef, and the tallow is much harder. There are a great abundance of them in Trumbull, but especially in Windsor-Forest, where they are often seen in droves of fifty or more.

Deer are much more abundant than formerly, and more fat, as they are very fond of grazing in the wheat fields.

Panthers are not abundant, and wolves are more scarce than when the country was first settled, and Bears are not often seen.

All the variety of squirrels are in great plenty, and many times do much injury to the fields of wheat and corn. The oposum is an animal which weighs (when dressed) about six pounds, and is as fat and as good food as a pig; but is not much eaten here.

Cattle, Horses, and Hogs, among the domestic animals, are plenty and good; but there is yet quite a deficiency of sheep. Many cattle, in towns a little removed from the lake, die by a disease called the *murrain*, which appears to me to be a

bilious affection, or a disease of the liver, and many hogs are destroyed by a swelling of the throat, and sheep are not unfrequently troubled with blindness, which I believe is not often mortal.

Of the fish tribe, the lake and rivers contain the fresh-water Sturgeon, the Cat-fish, the Musculunge, the Bass, or what is in New-England called *Perch*, and the White-fish are those most common. Vast quantities of White-fish are caught at Gros-Isle at the upper end of Lake Erie, and are very fat, and equal in flavour to shad, and sell here for eight dollars the barrel.

The Musculunge were formerly very abundant in the rivers; but are now very seldom seen. They are much esteemed, and were in former years much eaten.

I will finish this letter, by giving you some account of *titled men and their habitations*. In riding through the country, you come to a log or a block-house; on enquiring to whom it belongs, you are surprised to hear that it belongs to Judge —. The whole establishment consists of one room, in which all the family, with their guests, eat, sleep, and perform all the domestic operations. You proceed a little farther, and arrive at a similar mansion, and are informed that it belongs to Esquire ****, who you find is a miller, and a man who has had no other advantage for acquiring information than an ordinary school education.

Soliciting information respecting another residence, you are told that it is the property of a Rep-

representative or a Senator of the Legislature of the State of Ohio. In this villa, containing also but one room, is found a bed in two corners, in another a cup-board, in the fourth a swill-barrel, and on one side of the room a wooden clock without a case, and by one window a three-cornered piece of a looking-glass, set in a little wooden frame of domestic manufacture, and on the other side may be seen the Major Z—— at work at shoes. You will find another similar residence belonging to Colonel such a one.

These things are all well enough ; but if such are the residences of the Honourable, what must be those of the vulgar.

Wishing you peace and happiness,
I remain your
affectionate brother.

Geneva, February 1st, 1821.

DEAR BROTHER,

I will give you a description of the dress of the females in this part of the country. It is of necessity almost all home-spun, and comfortable enough ; (when whole) which is not too frequently the case, but the fashion thereof is very ancient, similar to the fashion of our grandmothers.

Caps are very little worn by the women, either old or young, except on Sabbaths and other high days, and they are such as were used to be worn as long ago, as I can remember. As to the bon-

nets, I can hardly give you a correct idea of them : but will describe them as well as I can. I have seen three or four imported from New-York, of the Dunstable kind, and quite in fashion ; and as to the rest, they are something like the parson's wig, and it would hardly be considered as Idolatry to worship them, as they are in "the likeness of nothing in Heaven above, in the Earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth ;" therefore you see there are no ideas existing in the minds of men, by which they can be accurately described. The stuff of which they are made you may know, when I tell you it is every kind of cloth from silk to flannel. I have just seen one made of yellow flannel quilted, and trimmed with the fur of the Muskrat, (as I suppose) and it is made to set close to the head, well answering the purpose of an ordinary skull-cap.

Some are made of dark mixed Chambray, and trimmed with bright *orange-coloured* ribbon ; others are *black*, trimmed with *scarlet*, *crimson*, *yellow*, *green*, or any coloured ribbons which the wearer either fancies, or can procure : Some are white, trimmed with green, or with any of the vast varieties which can be made by a composition of all the colours of the rain-bow.

The gowns worn by women as dress-gowns in winter, are either light-coloured calico, or new domestic flannel of any colour which may please the wearer.

Crapes, silks, or even bombazetts, are seldom seen here, although there are a few, which are occasionally worn by the wealthiest people.

The dress of Misses on *gala* days is in many instances a yellow-flannel frock, with a small ruffle, sometimes of muslin, but more frequently of some coloured cotton stuff, with one of the above described bonnets, and a stout pair of cow-hide shoes when they have them.

The men generally dress in home-spun cloth, and in many cases appear quite decent on days of exhibition; but their every day wardrobe is most miserably deficient. It is much the custom here to overlay pantaloons on the seat and the inside and front of the legs with sheep-skin. Some wear a semi-leathern apron ending in half legs, covering the fore part of the legs, and fastened behind by leathern straps and buttons.

Some females, sixty years old or more, wear their hair platted, and depending behind, very much in the manner of the Chinese gentlemen, and might not inaptly be styled Bashaweses with *one* tail.

Others who are very gray, comb the hair in front from one side to the other perfectly smooth. Many of the young females twist the hair, and fasten it on the top of the head with nicely polished *brass combs*, and others, for the want of these or any other combs, dock the hair square behind, leaving it about six inches long, which gives them a very uncouth and forbidding appearance.

Some infants not six weeks old, are dressed with a black, and others with a dark-checked cotton cap, with trimmings of the same.

A small part of the community, both male and female, dress with some good degree of taste and neatness.

Thus my dear brother, I have attempted to give you a concise and accurate description of the dress of the inhabitants of this part of our country. Hoping it acceptable to you,
 I subscribe myself,
 your affectionate brother.



Wrightsbury, February 4th, 1821.

BROTHER,

I presume it would be interesting to you to have some account of the buildings in this *American Paradise*.

In Salem and Ashtabula, which are small villages, there are a few very decent wooden buildings. There are in the latter two considerable stores, two large whiskey distilleries, where seven quarts of whiskey are given in exchange for a bushel of wheat or rye. There is no house for religious worship in this town.

Painsville, Warren, Youngstown, &c. are considerable places, and tolerably well built, and towns where a good quantity of business is transacted.

At Warren there is a large manufactory of *hollow-ware*: But the ware is heavy and brittle. Here they have a Presbyterian minister constantly resident, and also, a Baptist Elder, who resides here most of the time. At Painsville there is a Presbyterian minister settled for six months in the year.

In Jefferson there is a Court-house of brick, about forty by thirty feet, and two stories high. The lower story is a court-room, and the second is divided into four offices, of equal size, and a hall. It is a very plain building. Besides this there is one framed wooden dwelling, forty-four feet in length, two stories high, and painted white, and about half a dozen other framed buildings, not painted, and mostly one story and an half in height. The remainder are log cabins, many of them in a ruinous state, and some uninhabited. This town is the County seat for Ashtabula County. It is laid out in the form of a City, the center being divided into squares, and those squares subdivided into two-acre lots, and the streets are named.

Austinburg is one of the first settled towns in this County. It is a good township of land, and contains about four hundred inhabitants. Here is a Presbyterian church with a steeple, not painted, and nothing done to the inside except the laying of the floor, and it is without a bell.

There are a number of framed houses in this town, four of which are painted, one white, and the other three red. All the framed, (if I recollect right) are one story and an half high, except four, which are two stories.

In this town, as in all others which I have either seen, or concerning which I have acquired information, most of the dwellings are log, and some block. A block-house differs from a log one in this particular: in the former the logs are hewn square, so that they are smooth within and with-

out, and the latter are hewn only within, having the bark on the outside. In general also block-houses are shingled in the ordinary manner, but most of the log-houses are covered with long shingles, which are kept in place by means of three or four large poles laid from one end of the roof to the other, which are prevented from slipping off, by small billets of wood placed at right angles with them at certain intervals.

Wrightsbury is situated on Lake Erie, West of Ashtabula. In this township is the best finished dwelling-house I have seen in New-Connecticut, being painted white without, and all the rooms nicely plastered, and painted. This belongs to B. S. Esq. There are no settlements in this town, except on the great road leading on to the West. There are four framed houses, and the remainder, which are few, are of logs.

Geneva contains from three to four hundred people, living mostly in log-houses. But it is needless for me to particularise: It is sufficient to say, that the buildings are much alike in all, excepting those villages, above named, with a few others. There are many more framed barns than houses.

In Denmark there are fifteen families, all living in log-houses. Millsford is one of the first settled towns in the County of Ashtabula. It contains two families! One of which has moved into the town since the first of A. D. 1821.

The County of Ashtabula contains 7,167 people.

Most of the log-houses which have two rooms, more resemble two houses standing near to each other, and covered by one roof, than one house, having a space of about six feet between them, so that in passing from one to the other, you have always to go into the open air, which every one may imagine to be very pleasant and comfortable, especially in a cold stormy winter night. In this hall are usually placed the *swill-barrel, tubs, pots, kettles, &c.* Here the hogs almost every night dance a hornpipe to a swinish tune, which some one or more musicians of their own number play upon the pots and kettles, while others regale themselves at the swill-barrel, and add to the music, by upsetting it, which produces *liquid* music by the discharge of its contents into the Hall! To this music the whole assembly join in a grunting chorus. Now the whole Assembly leave their dancing, and repair to the feast, which is widely and profusely spread upon the ground of the Hall. After supper is finished, (I should imagine by the noise; but cannot say positively, having no proof but the sense of hearing, as I have never had an opportunity of seeing them,) they commence Waltzing, which they continue until some unwelcome intruder of the Human family compels them, though unwilling, to cut short their sport.

I will add in this place, that almost all of the houses, whether log or framed, are built without a cellar, and the framed houses are, in this case, built on large piles, as stones are not sufficiently plenty in many towns on the Reserve for this purpose.

As I did not give you a full description of a Shanty, in my first letter, under date of October 7th, I will do it in this place. It is a tenement, (if so it may be called,) built of logs split through the centre, having the plain surface inwards, and the bark without. They are generally about ten or twelve feet square, with a roof on one side, in the manner that horse-sheds are frequently built; consequently they have no chamber at all. In some there is a chimney, in others none, the smoke escaping through an opening at one corner of the roof, or else diffusing itself through the whole apartment, and finding its exit through the large openings between the logs. The door, in order that all the room in the building may be saved for use, always opens outwards, and is hung on wooden hinges, and is usually fastened when the family goes abroad, by a stick of wood leaning against it. This is as full a description of such a building, as it merits. But I could not have been less particular, and yet been accurate and intelligible.

I will in this place, (as it comes in most properly here,) give you a description of some of their *smoke-houses*. Here are some made of a hollow sicamore log, sawn square at each end. The largest end is the base, and the small end the top, on which is sometimes placed a nicely shingled roof. An opening is cut on one side, sufficiently large to admit a person standing erect, to which a door is accurately fitted. These are very convenient for the purpose to which they are applied.

Other smoke-houses are no more nor less, than an ordinary log-house without a chimney, with an opening through the roof at the ridge, where are suspended the hams for the use of the family and the neighbourhood. This is also *thought* to be an excellent place to smoke meat.

Thus much at present respecting the buildings.

Wishing to give you an accurate account of every thing which comes under my own observation,
I am your affectionate brother.

Wrightsbury, Feb. 5th, 1821.

DEAR BROTHER,

I will now attempt to give as accurate an account of the manners of the people as is in my power.

In general, the manners of the inhabitants are very rude and uncultivated. To this remark there are a few exceptions, though not numerous. But to be more particular; when any man or boy enters an house, he does it almost invariably with his hat on, and forgets to take it off his head during his stay, unless you ask him, and then generally excuses himself from so doing, by saying, "*it is no matter about it.*"

This is the mode in which ninety-nine in a hundred always enter an house.

Whether they do not know enough to think it is proper to take off their hats when they enter an house, or suppose that the head is the most con-

venient place to hang their hats, is not for me to determine.

When the person is seated, it is as likely as any way, even if he come on urgent business, that he will say nothing for the space of half an hour, unless to answer a question, laconically, by the monosyllables, yes or no, and many times you have to learn his business by asking it directly. During all this time of silence, there is a vacant kind of stare about every part of the room and the furniture, as if they would say when there is any article of furniture which they have not been accustomed to see, "what do you call that?"

When persons have got within the door, it is common for them to stand as near it as they can, till they are invited forward, staring wildly upon every article in the house, some, especially of the children, turning quite round to see if there is nothing behind them which they have not already discovered.

When leaving the room, after the business upon which they came is dispatched, upon arriving at the door, they will, in many instances, turn round again, to take another survey, very frequently departing without any ceremony or inclination of the head. For this perhaps they are not to blame, as for aught I will assert, they may be troubled with a stiffness of the back.

When females enter a room, it is in much the same manner, frequently coming in without knocking, especially on the Sabbath after meeting, when half a dozen come in upon you without any previous notice, or being bid to enter, huddling in and

standing behind each other, till you have time to dispose of them in some orderly manner. They have the same stare of astonishment as the male part of community.

A stranger to them is as much an object of curiosity, to appearance, as would be any uncommon animal.

These manners and customs, perhaps you will say, are innocent and harmless, as they do not affect the morals of the people. To this I agree; but there are others not so free from censure. One custom in particular I shall mention, which cannot be denied or excused, which is very indelicate, and has a very demoralizing tendency. It is this. Sleeping *promiscuously* in one room. In almost every house, parents and children, brothers and sisters, brothers and sisters-in-law, strangers and neighbours, married and unmarried, all ages, sexes and conditions, lodge in the same room, without any thing to screen them from the view of each other. This I affirm, is not the case in a solitary instance; but it is a general practice, not in the poorest families only, but among the richest and most respectable, as the inhabitants themselves will tell you. And this is done in some cases which I could particularize, where there is not the least shadow of necessity; even in houses where there are apartments sufficient to accommodate each sex separately, adult brothers and sisters, and young men and women, no ways related, sleep in the same bed-chamber.

Of the indelicacy of this practice, every one who has been accustomed to a more polished mode of living, will, I think, agree in opinion.

Of the immoral tendency, I think also, every one is well satisfied. Those who are in the practice of this custom, where there is no existing necessity, I think could hardly say in sincerity, "Lead us not into temptation." Of its immoral effects, I could mention some instances, if it were advisable.

This is a state of society to which I am not accustomed, and in which I am unwilling to live ; and in which I am more particularly unwilling to educate children.

Of the existence of this practice, I do not write from report ; but from my own knowledge, and I do not exaggerate in the description.

This may be considered as one great step towards a state of barbarism, and is a rapid approach to the custom of our savage brethren of the wilderness, who sleep without ceremony around the fires of their cabins. And as example has great influence, the rising generation is likely to have less delicacy on this subject than the present, so that there is a great prospect that the manners and morals of the people in this particular especially; will deteriorate rather than ameliorate. It is also probable that people of better manners, moving from other parts of the country, will partake, (in some degree at least,) of the general evil, and perhaps in time become as bad as others. On this subject, the opinion of Hannah More, in her *Christian Morals*, in the chapter on Retirement, is very appropriate.

“ Taste, and of course conversation, is liable to degenerate. Intellect is not kept in exercise. We are too apt to give to insignificant topics an undue importance ; to become arbitrary ; to impose our opinions as laws ; to contract, with a narrowness of thinking, an impatience of opposition. Yet while we grow peremptory in our decisions, we are, at the same time, liable to individual influence ; whereas in the wold, the injurious influence of one counsellor is soon counteracted by that of another ; and if, from the collision of opposite sentiments we do not strike out truth, we experience, at least, the benefit of contradiction. If those with whom we associate are of an inferior education and cast of manners, we shall insensibly lower our standing, thinking it sufficiently high, if it be above theirs, till we imperceptibly sink to their level.”

People retiring from polished society, from disappointed ambition, to such a state of society, are liable to run into all the follies and vices of the most illiterate and vulgar of his neighbours.

People here possess a great share of curiosity, especially in one particular, *i. e.* a great desire to be acquainted with the business of others ; so much so, that any thing uttered in a manner supposed to be secret, will, some how or other, be known in a few days time to almost every individual, in a dozen towns, and you are wholly at a loss to determine in what manner, the information could have been communicated. Frequently when a person has mounted his horse, and has set out on some business of his own, he is, without ceremony,

bluntly asked, "where are you going?" If he inform the inquirer, he will add, "what are you going there for?" If he satisfies him in this particular, he proceeds to inquire, "what are you about to do?" &c. &c. appearing to feel as much or more interest in his affairs than he does himself, or than he does in his own.

If one could be convinced, that this solicitude, concerning his affairs, originated in a desire to promote his interest, or from any motives of friendship, it would be gratifying enough; but when it is known that curiosity is the cause of all this apparent solicitude, it is extremely disgusting and odious, and highly reprehensible. There is still another thing I will mention in this letter. I never knew, so far as my recollection serves me, a person in *haste*. All appear at ease, whether their business drives or not, and it is a notorious fact, that people (in many towns) are very deficient in industry. It is not an uncommon circumstance, but happens to many, I believe, every year, that a part at least, of their pumpkins, corn, and potatoes, remain in the fields until snow falls, and thus are lost, for the want of a little more industry.

Instead of preparing wood for the summer, in winter, as is the custom in the Eastern States, men frequently meet in considerable numbers, and spend half the day in idle chit-chat, or invidious remarks concerning their neighbours, each of whom, if you were to believe the assertions of some one individual, is either a *debauchee*, a *drunkard*, a *cheat*, or a *swindler*.

The people here in general are very fond of *borrowing*, it is no matter what, is it any thing you have which they fancy they want, so that you must expect to lend all your crockery, should it chance to be wanted, and if it is broken, they will be *very* sorry, and in a short time, you will neither have any to lend or use yourself.

They are, in their turn, very good to lend also, and are not in the habit of refusing you any thing you need, if they can spare it as well as not.

Thus I have given you a correct statement of the manners of the people, as far as it goes. In some future letter I shall probably continue the subject.

I am, affectionately, your brother.



Wrightsburg, Feb. 8th, 1821.

AFFECTIONATE BROTHER,

I will at this time attempt to give you some account of the state of society in this part of the country.

There are a few of both sexes, scattered through various towns, who are people of considerable information, and some polish of manners; but it is more trouble to come at them, than their society is worth, unless we make the whole enjoyment of life consist in social converse.

It is highly desirable to have it in our power to have access to good society, without too much trouble, for if improvement and pleasure is to be

obtained at too much expence of time and property, it will be likely to be entirely neglected, or but seldom enjoyed, and then only enjoyed to make us more keenly sensible of the want of it. Thus from the difficulty of obtaining access to genteel society, it is altogether neglected, and the rising generation grow up in a manner very little superior to that of barbarism. Unless the indefatigable exertion of parents, accompanied by their examples, does in some degree compensate for the want of general good company.

It is evident to any impartial observer, that one generation after another, degenerate in a wonderful manner. You may in many cases observe, that the grandparents are people of good manners, and generally improved minds. These, it must be remembered, are immigrants from various parts of the old Atlantic States, and have brought all their improvements with them, which they still retain.

The children of these immigrants, who came into the country with their parents, partake, in some degree, of the manners of their progenitors, although gentility of behaviour is much obumbrated. The grand children, for want of the example and instruction which their parents enjoyed, are degenerated still more, so much so, that politeness, ease of manners, and every kind of grace, is almost entirely lost and obliterated. This is a practical illustration of the remark of H. More, quoted in my last letter.

Schools in this part of the country, are necessarily very indifferent. Young men and women, in many cases, can read and write, but very badly.

I knew two young men, one of nineteen, the other twenty-one years old, conversing with each other respecting the points used in writing. One remarked to the other, that "that is a comma," "the semicolon is the pause of two syllables," &c. &c. which, by their manner of speaking, they appeared to have just learned, and expressed as much pleasure in knowing these things, as children of eight years old would have done.

These were sons of one of the most wealthy farmers in the town where they resided.

If you inquire of the people if they have seen or read such and such books, which are most common in New-England, they will reply in most cases, that they have never heard of them, and the library of most families, consists of, (at most,) three or four volumes.

If we are to judge of the characters of men, by the report of their neighbours, I do not know of more than two or three honest men among all those whom I am acquainted with, or concerning whom I have received any information; but almost all, according to fame, have been guilty of some heinous transaction, and it is remarked by some, that "when people get here, they appear to think that they have got away from all restraint of law and conscience."

Two days ago, I was conversing with a gentleman, who was lately justice of the peace in Ash-tabula county, respecting the state of society and

morals, who remarked to me, "that when he was on the grand-jury about two years since, that it was proved before them, that there were in this county, *twenty-eight* men married to women here, who had left their wives living in the Eastern States, and afterwards he learnt that there were a number more, that they did not know of at that time," so that probably the number of men living in this state of adultery, may not be less than fifty. You will remark that the population of this county, according to the census of last year, is less than seven thousand two hundred.

How unsearchably great is the depravity of the human heart, which can condescend to such baseness! If Satan do not blush for the conduct of his adherents, it must be because they far exceed in guilt his most sanguine expectations.

Such persons are fit agents of such a master. Of the baseness and unsearchable depravity of the human heart, we could have no conception, were it not made manifest to us by various examples.

In this case we have exhibited to us, the danger mankind run into, by embracing the doctrine of Universal Salvation, as I understood these men have.

With them, therefore, it is no matter what they do, as they fancy they shall fare well enough hereafter.

Yours, &c.

Wrightsburg, Feb. 20th, 1821.

On the climate of N. Connecticut.

DEAR SIR,

I shall in this letter give you some account of the climate of this section of the country. The latitude is the same as that of Connecticut, and we should expect about the same temperature of the air, and in this we are not disappointed. This winter thus far has been very cold, and much snow has fallen, making as good sleighing, I think, as I ever knew in Connecticut or Massachusetts. We have lately had three days as cold weather as I ever experienced any where ; but at this time the weather is mild, and the ground nearly clear of snow, which vanished almost like a dew before a summer's sun, and the buds of fruit trees, especially peach trees, are considerably swollen, so much so, that if any severe weather should succeed this time, there is great danger that the fruit will be killed.

It has been often said, that cattle could winter in this State in the open air, without any assistance from man ; but this is very far from being the case, and ever has been, as I have often heard people here say, that when they first came into the country, and had no hay, they were obliged to go every day and cut down trees for their stock to browse upon, in order to save them from starvation. Besides I know, that this year people be-

gan from necessity, to feed their stock quite early in the fall, and the hay and straw is almost entirely consumed, and there is a prospect that it will be necessary to feed cattle at least six weeks longer ; so you see there will be a necessity of feeding much upon corn and wheat, which people have begun to do already. From these facts, I think it appears that stock cannot be kept through the winter any cheaper or easier than in *poor old Connecticut*.

Respecting winds, I would observe, that where the country is cleared to any extent, the winds are very violent in the fall and winter, and come on almost instantaneously, turning up by the roots, the stoutest trees of the forest, in instances innumerable. And those who have been long in the country, say that it becomes more and more windy, as the country is cleared of timber.

There is a natural cause, why this section of the country should be windy, as it lies contiguous to Lake Erie, which is at this place one hundred miles wide, and extends one hundred and fifty miles west, and as many north-east from this place, so that if the course of the wind is west, north, or north-east, there is a great extent of water over which the wind passes without obstruction.

The temperature of the air, in the fall, winter and spring, appears to me more variable than in Connecticut. Much rain usually falls in the spring and fall, and the country is excessively muddy, because the soil is a stiff clay, and so impervious that the water cannot filtrate through, but

remains on the surface for a great length of time, and where there is any travelling of consequence, the roads become mortar, in many places very deep and stiff, which makes the passing very difficult and laborious.

During the summer months, there usually falls a smaller quantity of rain than in the Eastern States, according to my own observation and the information which I have obtained from others, and the soil being clay, bakes very hard, and the ground cracks, much as it does by very severe cold weather in the New-England States. On a great travelled road the dust becomes as fine as flour, and incommodes the traveller in a very great degree.

I will make a few more remarks respecting winter, and then close this epistle.

I think, according to the best information which I have been able to acquire, that the quantity of snow which falls here, is not quite so great as in Connecticut. Where the land is cleared, the ground freezes as hard as in Eastern countries of the same latitude. In large native forests, the small ponds scarcely freeze sufficiently thick to bear a person, and the ground, which is deeply covered with leaves, scarcely freezes at all, so that the roads leading through forests, in consequence of the weakness of the ice, and the great quantity of water and mud, together with roots and stumps, are almost impassable. Abundant testimony might be brought to corroborate these remarks, and to prove farther, that horses' legs

are not unfrequently *skinned* by travelling among the ice through these horrible roads in the winter season.

Yours affectionately,
Z. H.

Jefferson, April 10, 1821.

*On the Literature, Religion, and Population &c.
of — towns.*

DEAR BROTHER,

This place is the capital of Ashtabula county, and contains 150 souls in the whole township. The court-house, which is of brick, stands on the highest land in the town. From the court-house the land descends gradually in every direction for a considerable distance. This is the handsomest situated town I have yet seen on the Reserve, and it wants nothing but good society, literary, civil and religious privileges, together with many other *minor conveniencies* of life, to render it a desirable residence. But these advantages, it (in common with most or all of the towns on the Reserve,) is like to want for a long time yet to come.

Perhaps I may in this place, as properly as any where, make some remarks concerning the present state of literature, religion, and population, which shall be followed by an opinion respecting the future prospects on these various subjects.

Schools in this part of the country are taught, (if kept up at all,) by females about three months for the Summer term, who teach merely the rudiments of reading, writing and plain sewing. In many cases these schools are not taught more than eight weeks, and some not more than six, and compensation for teaching is made in almost all cases in such articles as the country affords, and not in money, so that teachers of much erudition, cannot be prevailed upon to undertake the business of teaching the rising generation.

In the winter term, men teach the same branches as are taught by the females in the summer, with the addition of a little Arithmetic, and the exclusion of sewing during about three months.

From this method of teaching, and the short time the Schools are kept, and the long intervals that intervene between the terms, it will readily be conceived, that the children forget nearly as much as they learn, and it is very common to meet with young men and women, who cannot read, better than children in Connecticut, of six years of age, and even with less propriety than some with which I am acquainted.

Their knowledge of Geography, Grammar, &c. is confined to a few, who may have the privilege of occasionally attending the few academies which are established here; or to those very few, who have property sufficient to send their children abroad.

Those who have property sufficient to give their children a good education, and are disposed so to do, cannot at this time procure cash sufficient to pay the expense of such an education.

On the subject of Religion and religious education, much might be said; but I shall make but few remarks on this head.

In a few towns on the Reserve, Clergymen are settled for four or six months in the year, and the remainder of the time they ride as missionaries, through the townships which lie contiguous to them. In a *very* small number of towns, ministers are settled for the whole year.

These remarks apply to Presbyterians and Episcopalians. The other Preachers are illiterate Baptist Elders, and still more illiterate Itinerant Methodists.

From this view of the subject, it will easily be seen, that the situation of the inhabitants of this country is most deplorable with regard to religious privileges.

It may farther be remarked that many families are without the Word of God, and are groping in almost Heathenish darkness, and are unable to procure the Word of Life to make them wise unto Salvation. This is not all; at least eleven months in twelve, the great body of the people have no better oral instruction, than what they receive, from the most uninformed and fanatical methodist Preachers, who are the most extravagant Ranters, of which any one can form an idea, who bawl forth one of their incoherent rhapsodies in one township in the morning, in another township in the afternoon, and a third in a third place in the evening. Thus they run through the country, "leading captive at their will, silly women," and men equally unwise.

In order to give an idea of the information which these Preachers possess respecting other countries, and the occurrences which are natural to them, I will relate an anecdote of one of them whom I had the privilege to hear declaim.

He was exhorting his hearers to prepare for death, and showing them the necessity of improving the present time, lest the harvest should pass, and they not be saved. To illustrate and enforce his remarks, he said (speaking of the Jews) that they had two harvests, and also the former and latter rain, and then placing them in Egypt, he asserted, that in consequence of the great rains which fell in that country twice a year, the Nile semi-annually overflowed its banks, fertilizing the country, thus fitting it to produce the former and latter harvest, which would not fail, if the people were careful to prepare their ground, and put in the seed.

This man appeared to be as well informed as any of this class of Preachers among them.

Their sermons are without plan or system, beginning with *ignorance*, and ending in *nonsense*, interlarded with something nearly approaching to blasphemy in many cases.*

Many of the inhabitants in this part of our country are very sensible of their want of religious privileges, and earnestly desire to enjoy the rationally preached gospel, and say, "come over and help us."

* The above remarks on Methodist Preachers, may appear censorious and severe, but they are not more severe than true, concerning those who preach in this part of the country. I could wish they were.

Missionaries are, as appears to me, almost as much needed here as in the Islands of the Seas; and as these people are our own brethren according to the flesh, there appears to be a duty incumbent on those who possess the means, an *urgent necessity*, to send them well instructed teachers, who may lead them in the way to heaven.

This State (with the exception of a few towns) is still thinly settled, many townships remaining in the same situation, or nearly so, as they were when possessed by the savages of the forest.

The average number of inhabitants in the various townships may be 150, which is six to every square mile. In some towns, however, there is four-sixths of a person to a square mile. One of these is Millsford, which lies South-East of Jefferson, cornering on that town; South of Denmark and East of Lenox, which is directly South of Jefferson. Millsford contains two families, composed of six individuals. This township began to be settled about as early as any in the country; but has never contained but one family at a time, till this Spring, when a second moved into the township. In this township, about eight acres of land are cleared, and the remainder is in a state of nature, covered with huge forest trees, such as white oak, white wood, beech, sugar maple, ash, &c. &c. loaded with an abundant foliage of the most beautiful green imaginable.

The township is low, and covered with water most of the year: the soil as good as the neighbouring townships.

Denmark lies East of Jefferson, and contains 107 persons ; no buildings but log ones. This is a poor township of land, and the inhabitants are sickly. The roads in this place are as made by the Creator, except that the trees are cut down and removed. All the way from Denmark to Jefferson, the road, if such it may be called, lies through the ancient forest, and winds in various directions, to correspond with the various declivities and deep ravines across which it passes. In Denmark is a considerable forest of lofty hemlocks, clothed with perpetual verdure, which may be seen from the court-house in Jefferson, a distance of five miles, through a vista, cut four rods wide in a strait course the whole distance, through the native, lofty, venerable forest. This extensive avenue, through the primeval forest, apparently interminable on all sides except the West, and terminated by an extensive wilderness of evergreen, has a pleasing, though somewhat melancholy effect upon the mind.

Through this avenue the road is intended to pass. The future prospect respecting Literature, Population, and Religion, is very unpromising. There appears to be no reason to suppose, that either will improve or increase much for a long time yet to come. Emigrations to this part of the country are almost entirely at an end, or at least at a stand ; so that the increase of population will only be a natural augmentation, which cannot be very rapid, because of the small number of the present inhabitants.

In consequence of the want of an advantageous and profitable market, property cannot be acquired, only in a very dilatory manner, and thus for the want of means, literature and religion will languish, and society will not much improve. Emigrants from the Eastern States either go farther West or South, in quest of the land of Promise, or those who have wisdom enough, have learned, that land of double the intrinsic value of most of the lands on the Reserve, and not more than one half or two thirds the distance from their native homes, may be had, at the same price, as in Ohio, and only half the distance from a good market, which lands, many of them, lie directly by the side of the great Western canal, in the midst of the most beautiful country in all the United States.

It may be said that Ohio will have a good market when the canal is completed, and then these difficulties will be done away.

Undoubtedly this, in some degree, will be the case; but it will for ever be expensive to transport all heavy agricultural articles the distance of from four hundred and fifty to six hundred miles, to Albany or New-York, which are the nearest markets to which the inhabitants of this part of the country can ever have access.

The above remarks will apply to the transportation of articles from the Atlantic to the lakes.

Jefferson, June 10th, 1821.

Description of the country between Jefferson and Tallmadge.

DEAR SIR,

This day I set out upon a ride to Tallmadge, in Portage County, in company with the Sheriff and his Assistant, having a prisoner under his charge, who was sentenced to the Penitentiary of the State of Ohio, which is in Columbus, the present capital of the State, for the term of four years for stealing cattle.

It was a fine morning, and the sun rose in all his majesty and glory, from behind the ancient, lofty wilderness, which bounds this little village on the East.

At six o'clock we left the jail in this town, which is a block-house two stories high, and is situated on Elm-street, and turned to the right, round the court-house, which is situated on Jefferson-street, and is the principal street in the village, and the one on which all the houses, with the exception of three or four, are built. This is a fine turnpike, commencing about one hundred rods East of the court-house; there meeting the avenue, from Denmark before mentioned, on the East, and leading by a gentle descent to the West, which continues nearly two miles, and is as beautiful a location for a street, as is to be found in any city or village in any part of the country.

On the same side of the street with the courthouse, and on the opposite side of the street on which the jail is situated, stands the only painted house in the village. This is a large two-story house, built in a good style of architecture, and painted white, and has a neat and handsome appearance. It is finished, I believe, from cellar to garret, which cannot be said of any other house in the place. It belongs to the auditor of the county, who is a very respectable man, and a person of strong and discriminating mind, and considerable erudition.

Jefferson is connected with Austinburg on the west by the above-mentioned street and turnpike.

We continued our course down this street for about two miles, and then took a left hand road leading off in a S. W. direction through the forest, towards Morgan. After continuing our course about one mile farther, the waters of Mills' creek were dimly seen through the obstructing foliage, and the hoarse murmur of the waters of the stream which are precipitated in one extensive and dense sheet, over the dam of a lumber establishment, fell upon the ear.

In the rainy seasons, the waters of this creek are about one hundred feet in breadth in this place, but in the dry season, it almost literally ceases to be a stream, which is the case with all the streams in the country, except those of the largest size.

Passing on still about half a mile farther, through an obscure path, again the creek burst suddenly upon the view. At this place we forded

the stream, and continued our course about two and a half miles, passing sometimes by the side of it, having an opportunity of observing its high and precipitous opposite bank, capped with stately evergreens, when we arrived upon the summit of its banks again, which at this place are very high and steep on the side of approach.

From this height we had a delightful view of the creek, with its various meandrings, of the opposite country, which is cleared and cultivated to a considerable extent, of a pretty little cluster of buildings, composing a little manufacturing establishment, and of the towering forest of the west, terminating our prospect.

We now descended the bank, by a road, steep, narrow, and difficult to pass with waggons, being cut deep in the bank, which nearly approaches to perpendicular, but being on horse-back, we found no difficulty in gaining the bridge, over which we passed in safety, although it was in a degree dilapidated and dangerous, and within a few rods crossed a beautiful race-way, much resembling a canal, which supplies the mills before spoken of with water.

We continued our course, and passed the building in Morgan, which answers the two-fold purpose of a church and school-house, which is a one story building with two chimnies, and is unpainted.

This is considered as a good township of land.

Here crossed Rock-Creek on which is an excellent mill-seat, and passed on to Rome, without any remarkable occurrence, and next to Leffing-

well, which is a township almost entirely unsettled, containing, as well as I could learn, not more than three or four log-houses.

I forgot to mention in its place, that at Morgan we met the turnpike which leads from Lake Erie at Ashtabula, on to Warren, on which we travelled as far as Leffingwell, and then turned to the right into the wilderness or forest of Windsor, through which we passed, a distance of three miles, most of the way without any road but a foot way of deep mud, and arrived at the settlement of Windsor, and stopped at the house of Judge Griswold, where we were entertained with much hospitality by the Judge and his daughters.

This is a post-town of Ashtabula county, fourteen miles S. W. of Jefferson, and has a small Episcopal church. In this town the face of the country begins to be quite uneven with hills of very considerable height, and their intervening vallies, and continues to be a broken country all the way to Tallmadge in Portage county, which is about as uneven as the Eastern States, not including those elevations which are appropriately called mountains. The towns we passed through from Windsor to Tallmadge were Parkeman, in which is a pretty little village of about twelve buildings, mostly painted white. Here is a paper-manufactory, and mills of various descriptions; but almost all the men except the merchant, exhibit strong marks of intemperance in the use of whiskey.

After this we passed Hiram and Hudson, which has a very neat white Presbyterian church

with a spire, some decent houses, two stores, &c. Passed through Stowe and arrived at Tallmadge, without any remarkable occurrence, except in Hudson, the prisoner undertook to run away, when his horse at full speed plunging its fore-feet into a deep slough of stiff clay-mortar, (immediately by a log-way which lay high,) stuck fast, and by the rapidity which it had acquired, the hinder parts of the horse were carried quite over its head, and the horse and rider fell with violence upon the log-way, seriously lameing the horse, and breaking the clavicle of the prisoner, which I reduced to place, and then left the company to pursue my course alone. In Stowe is a considerable quarry of free stone, of a dull brown or drab colour, which quarries well, and is good for building, and makes excellent grind-stones. A considerable part of this town and of Tallmadge, Franklin, &c. are thick set with small argillaceous stones, which with slate, appears to be the principal stone of the country, some of which when thrown into the fire in masses not bigger than one's hand, when thoroughly heated, explode with a report, much resembling a horseman's pistol.

Parkman is post-town in Geauga county, on the head waters of Grand river.

Hudson is a post-town in Portage county, twelve miles N. W. of Ravenna, and twenty-three S. E. of Cleveland. Population 793.

Tallmade is a post-town of Portage county, eleven miles S. W. of Ravenna. In this place is an academy, a forge, a furnace, and a number of mills. Population is about 600 or 700.

On my return from Tallmadge, I passed through Stowe, Franklin, Ravenna, Stowsburg, Braceville, Warren, Champion, Bristol, Leffingwell, Rome, Morgan, to Jefferson.

Stowe is a post-town of Portage county, on the Cuyahoga, W. of Ravenna eleven miles. Population about 500. In Tallmadge, Stowe, Franklin, Ravenna and Stowsburg, the country is very uneven and hilly, and the soil not the best, but such as may pass for tolerably good, except Franklin, which is poor almost beyond description, and is composed of small and large irregular hills of sand and clay, and is wooded with small white-oak and sassafras, the foliage of which appears to be the principal food for the cattle. This town is in Portage county, six miles west of Ravenna; and its inhabitants are about 250. On the Cuyahoga in this town is one of the largest grist-mills I have seen in the country, two stories high, painted red, which has an abundant supply of water.

Ravenna is the capital of Portage county, and is situated on the Cuyahoga, distant from Cleveland thirty-five miles S. E. and from Columbus one hundred and forty miles N. E. This is a small village, containing a large brick hotel, eight or ten decent white houses, a court-house of wood, and a woollen manufactory.

Braceville is in Trumbull county, seven miles S. W. of Warren, and is a post-town. This is one of the best townships of land I have seen on the Reserve, and produces large crops of grass, wheat, rye, corn, oats, &c.

The Mahoning river runs through this place, forming extensive rich interval lands.

Warren is the seat of justice for Trumbull county, situated on the Mahoning river, thirty-five miles S. E. of Painesville, which is on the shore of Lake Erie, at the mouth of Grand river, and seventy-seven N. W. of Pittsburg. It is an irregular, compact, beautiful and flourishing village, containing seventy or eighty houses, many of which are handsome and well finished, and some of the inhabitants appear to be people of gentility of manners. It contains a court-house, jail, and bank. In this place I saw the first and only chaise that I saw during my stay in Ohio. This was a pleasant and agreeable sight, after having for so long a time seen no carriage, but ordinary plain waggons, and strongly reminded me of New-England, and the conveniences and privileges which are there enjoyed. This year the Baptists have built a large brick church in this place, which adds much to its beauty.

On leaving Warren, I immediately entered on the turnpike leading from this town to Ashtabula, a distance of forty-three miles in a direction nearly due north, and in all this distance, there is no hill of any consequence, till the traveller arrives at Austinburg, from which place to the Lake the country is gently undulating.

Upon quitting Warren, I immediately entered the ancient, venerable forest, through which I passed on a good road the distance of seven miles, without meeting with one inhabited building, and but two or three deserted log cabins. This was

between Warren and Bristol, partly in the township of Champion, which is very thinly settled. In this wilderness where no domestic animals are found, by the side of the turnpike, I found grass which would answer for mowing, which corresponded more with the wonderful stories told of this country, than any other thing I saw. The grass might be two feet high, by the road side, and so might it in any country, where there were no animals to feed upon or disturb it, so that this is nothing more than might be said of Connecticut in similar circumstances. In Bloomfield through which I passed, there is a very pretty village of eight or ten white houses. Here was an appearance of comfort not met with in every place. This is a post-town in Trumbull county, fifteen miles N. of Warren.

Leffingwell is twenty miles N. of Warren, Rome twenty-five miles, Morgan thirty miles, Jefferson thirty-five miles, and as I have before said what I thought was necessary respecting these places, I shall make no remarks about them in this place.

The soil of the Reserve, as far as I have been able to learn, either by information acquired from others, or from my own observation, is, with a few exceptions, (such as a long narrow slip of land in the ridge townships, and the hills in Franklin,) a white clay in many places, having a thick superstratum of vegetable mould, which has been accumulating ever since the Deluge, and in many other places the soil is thin and barren ; not in general corresponding to the character which has been

given to it by speculators, by at least one half, not to say three-fourths.

To prove this opinion, I will just state my own observations with respect to the amount of crops, together with the assertions of many, of whom I have sought information on this subject.

It is my opinion and the declaration of many others, that the average crop of wheat, throughout all this country, does not exceed twelve bushels to the acre, corn not more than from fifteen to twenty-five bushels, although there are acres which yield more—potatoes produce just about the same quantity as in Connecticut, but not so good a quality—flax produces a good crop about once in four years—of hay they cut but one crop in the year, and a ton and a half to two tons are extraordinary quantities to cut from an acre, whereas in Connecticut, sometimes four tons are procured from an acre, either at one, two, or three cuttings in a season.

Jefferson, Aug. 27, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

This day I left this place on my return to Connecticut at four o'clock in the afternoon, crossed Mills' creek upon a crazy bridge, and arrived, without any remarkable occurrence, at Austinburg, where I spent the night. The road between these two places is good, being made in the form of a turnpike. Distance five miles.

Aug. 28.—Leaving Austinburg at nine o'clock A. M. I passed through a part of Wrightsburg to Ashtabula, on the Warren turnpike. A considerable part of the land in this place, (Ashtabula,) is sandy and poor, but the narrow interval on Ashtabula is of an excellent quality. In this village are a few neat and decent houses, two stores, three large whiskey distilleries, one small brewery, three or four taverns, no house for public worship; and from the harbour, which is two and a half miles distant from the village, at the mouth of Ashtabula creek, two or three small sloops occasionally sail. This is a miserable harbour, although the water in the creek is sixteen feet deep, and safe from winds; but it is extremely difficult to enter on account of the narrowness of the channel, and its constantly changing its course, and on account of a sand bar which entirely closes up the channel after high winds from the north, which remains closed until the waters of the creek accumulated above, burst through this feeble barrier, sweeping the whole before it, thus making a temporary channel for the entrance and departure of whatever vessels may wish to pass.

In this place it is proper to give you some account of the fish in this Lake, principally of those which are used as food.

The *musculunge* is a very delicate fish, and when bloated and broiled, eats very much like sea-bass; it is a large fish, weighing from three pounds to fifteen pounds—it is also good salted. This fish was formerly, at the first settlement of the country, very abundant in the Lake, and the

various streams which enter it; but since mill-dams have been built on these streams, it has almost entirely left them, and at this time few are caught any where in these waters.

Cat-fish are large and good fish, especially salted; but of these also, there are few caught at this time, except at Gross Isle, near Detroit. They weigh from six pounds to twenty-five pounds.

The principal fish caught in the Lake now, is the white fish, which is about two thirds as large as ordinary shad. It is good, either fresh or salted. When salted it much resembles a shad, both in taste and appearance, although it is fatter, and the fat is white. It is very free from bones.—Great quantities of these, and of the cat-fish are caught at Gross Isle, and are put up in barrels and transported to various parts of the country upon the Lakes, and are almost the only fish which can be had here at any time. This fishery promises to be a very important branch of commerce upon these great Western waters. There are besides these, no fish of much consequence as an article of food.

The navigation of this Lake is very dangerous, from a general shallowness of the water of the Lake, in consequence of which in a storm, the waters are very much agitated and rough—from the small depth of the water to the distance of from one fourth of a mile to a mile from the shore, together with a rocky bottom, and high perpendicular bluffs, for a great extent upon the Lake—and from a most total want of harbours, espe-

cially on the United States side, for the whole extent of the Lake.

From Black-Rock or Buffalo to Detroit, there is not a convenient and scarcely a tolerable harbour, with the exception of the harbour of Erie, in the county of Erie in Pennsylvania. At Painesville at the mouth of Grand River in the county of Geauga, is a tolerable harbour, but there is a bar at its mouth, with only seven or eight feet water upon it. Painesville may contain about 1,500 people. It is not a healthy place.

At Cleveland which is situated on the mouth of the Cuyahoga river, and is the capital of the county of Cuyahoga, which is about one hundred and eighty-two miles S. W. of Buffalo, is one of the best harbours, and is favourably situated for commerce. At this place, and at Painesville, the steam boat stops on her passage up and down the Lake. Here was formerly a bank; but at this time the stock is not worth any thing, as it does no business at present, and it is not expected it ever will.

Sandusky city is two and a quarter miles from Lake Erie, on the bay of Sandusky, on the S. side. In this bay is a good harbour, and here the steamboat touches on her way to Detroit. This *city*, of which so much has been said, is laid out in a regular manner, and contains, according to the best information I could obtain, about ten or twelve houses, and much like many other towns in the west, resembles a city in nothing, only in the naming of streets regularly laid out in the wil-

derness, and perhaps not one of them cleared of its timber.

The *ague and fever* prevails much on this bay, which will greatly retard its settlement. It is favourably situated for trade, and in some future day, should the situation become more healthy, it may become a place of some consequence. It is sixty miles W. of Cleveland.

Gross Isle, before spoken of, is an island in the river Detroit, in Michigan territory, near the mouth of the river. It is about seven and a half miles long and one and three fourths of a mile wide. Some part of the island is cultivated. This is a most celebrated place for taking white fish and cat head in the spring and fall, and is about four miles below Detroit, which is three hundred miles W. of Buffalo.

Whiskey is the principal drink used in all this western country, and is drunk in great abundance, and is more generally used in liberal portions, than any or all kinds of spirituous liquors, in any other part of the country with which I am acquainted¹.

The principal reason of this is, probably, the want of a market for their surplus quantity of grain, which induces the inhabitants to convert it into whiskey, which is very cheap in consequence of its great abundance.

I now passed on through Kingsville, a poor sandy township of land, as appears from the road, and thinly settled, and arrived at night at Salem, a small village on the Conneaut creek. In this place I saw some good land, but more that was

poor and sandy. Here are two large elegant framed houses, painted a brilliant white, one belonging to Col. Fyfield, and the other to a Mr. Keys, both situated on the high north bank of the above named rivulet. The former is almost embowered in fruit trees of various kinds, which gives it a rural, airy and pleasing appearance, combined with convenience and comfort. The one belonging to Mr. K. is situated about fifty rods to the south of the road, and is surrounded by extensive cultivated fields, and makes a more magnificent appearance, and all combined exhibit incontestable proofs of wealth.

Put up this night at J. Jones, who was formerly from Middletown in Connecticut. Here I found good accommodations, such as good food and an excellent bed, and what was calculated in a peculiar manner to render my situation pleasant and agreeable, was the obliging conduct of the landlord and his lady.

Rode twenty miles, which is my distance from A——g. The township of Salem contains about 1000 inhabitants.

Aug. 29.—I passed through a considerable extent of poor sandy country, wooded with small white-oak and hemlock, containing a few new log huts, almost without furniture and not one of the conveniencies of life. Saw much land which had been cleared and abandoned as unworthy of cultivation. Passed on through Springfield, saw nothing worthy of note, and arrived at Nicholson's tavern. This is an obliging Irish family, and the accommodations are decent. I am now within seven

miles of Erie, having travelled but twenty-three miles to-day. Erie is thirty miles from Salem, and fifty miles from Austinburg.

Sept. 30.—To-day I passed through Erie, and crossed Twenty-mile creek and Elk creek, New-York State line from North-East or Gibsonville into Ripley and put up at Royce's, who was formerly from Plymouth in Connecticut.

This is twenty-two miles from Erie, and seventy-two miles from Austinburg.

Erie is handsomely situated on the S. of the Lake of the same name, at the head of a bay formed by Presque Isle, it is S. W. of Buffalo, about seventy-nine miles, and near one hundred N. E. of Cleveland, by the Lake passage. Its population in 1810 was 400, which has increased to about 1,500 this year, 1821. It contains a jail, court-house, printing-office, &c. Its harbour is good, but the entrance is difficult, in consequence of the narrowness of the channel.

It is a place of considerable trade, and is of rising importance, both as a commercial place and a naval station, as it is probably the only harbour where a fleet can lie in safety on the south side of the Lake. Soon after leaving Erie, I passed Twenty-mile creek, which is an ordinary mill-stream, running through a most deep and awful ravine, the banks of which nearly approach to perpendicular, and are, as I should judge, one hundred and fifty feet high. At the foot of these banks is a narrow slip of flat land, just wide enough for a small house and a mill, through which runs the creek above-mentioned.

The road leading down into this narrow valley, is a passage cut with much labour down the side of its almost perpendicular banks, just wide enough for one waggon to pass, through the clay, and slaty rocks of which it is formed, and much of the way so high and precipitous, as to threaten the traveller with instant destruction if he should make one false step.

On the right, as you descend the South bank, close at hand, the hill is high and towering, and covered with lofty evergreens, the ancient inhabitants of the forest, and at the bottom of the valley, it terminates abruptly in an almost perpendicular, narrow bluff, around which the stream winds in solemn silence. At one point in the descent of the hill, the road has twice slipped from its foundation into the valley below, carrying before it every opposing obstacle. The ascent of the Northern bank is not so difficult or hazardous.

Travelling on Eastward three or four miles farther, I crossed Elk creek, which is a ravine almost equally difficult and dangerous as the other, having a wider valley, and a larger stream flowing through it. In this valley is a mill, and a few houses, and a tavern.

I passed the division line between Pennsylvania and New-York, from North-East or Gibsonville, (where there is a small village, with a handsome Presbyterian church, land somewhat stony,) into Ripley.

August 31.—I passed through Portland and Fredonia to Kensington, and put up at Pierce's. This is a convenient and very neat house, and the people are very obliging; accommodations good.

The land most of this distance good, and free from stone. The country in general better settled than farther West. The houses are mostly framed, with occasional brick ones.

Fredonia is a flourishing village in *Pomfret*, in the County of Chataugue, N. Y. on Canadaway Creek, after which it was formerly named. It is four miles from the lake. The creek runs through the village, and on this creek are built a number of manufactories of different kinds. It is forty-five miles from Erie, one hundred and seventeen from Jefferson, and forty-six from Buffalo. There is a Printing office in this place, and a gazette is printed, and issued from it.

It is a busy, flourishing place, and exhibits the appearance of wealth. I saw no church.

Sept. 1.—From Kensington my way lay through Hanover on Cataraugus creek, the *Four-mile Woods*, to Evens, (heretofore called Eden,) and put up at Salisbury's, a log tavern, on the shore of Lake Erie.

Cataraugus Creek is twenty-five miles South of Buffalo. On this stream the land is by far the best I have seen in any of the Western country, and is equal to the land in Wethersfield in Connecticut. The soil is a deep black mould, covered with the most luxuriant vegetation imaginable, and of great variety, from the humble and modest violet to the towering sicamore.

At this place the Indian claim is not extinguished, and of course the axe has made no encroachment upon the native forest, which remains in all its pristine grandeur, a fit haunt for savage beasts; and still more savage men.

The Indian village is about six miles above the ferry, and contains about 400 individuals. *

Soon after passing Cataraugus, proceeding on to the Eastward, or rather Northward, (as this is the course of the lake shore from there to Buffalo, or more properly it is in the form of a vast crescent of twenty-five or thirty miles in extent,) the shores of the lake gradually rise to the height of two hundred feet, forming a perpendicular barrier to the lake of this height, and down to one hundred feet for many miles together. Upon the top of this ledge, and very near the edge of it, lies the road, affording the traveller an unlimited prospect of this extensive lake, which is occasionally whitened with the canvass of two great commercial nations. In a storm, the lake is as much agitated as the ocean, and the navigation is vastly more dangerous, on account of the shallowness of the water near the shore, the want of sea room (as the average width of the lake does not exceed thirty miles) the great distance between safe harbours, and an iron bound coast.

The beach of the lake very much resembles the beach of Long-Island Sound, except that there is mixed with the silicious sand, many small pieces of slate.

From Buffalo to the distance of at least one hundred and fifty miles, wherever those immense cliffs present themselves to view, they are entirely composed of slate, in horizontal layers of various thicknesses, which are divided by almost imperceptible perpendicular seams. In many places it is evident that this slate contains alum, as by ex-

posure to the weather, the rock decomposes, alum effloresces on its surface, which is perceptible to the taste and sight, and the slate can be easily pulverized with the fingers.

In other places, the rock is sulphur-slate, as is manifested by the strong smell of sulphuretted hydrogen gas. The bottom of the lake is also slate, having a slight inclination towards the North-West.

The water of the lake has a greenish appearance, much resembling the waters of the ocean : but when taken up in a glass, it appears perfectly limpid, and is very palatable.

The road through the *Four Mile Woods* is bad beyond any idea which a person can have who has never travelled in a new country. In one place the traveller passes over a most fatiguing log-way, through which the horse occasionally thrusts his foot, to the manifest danger of breaking his leg, and precipitating his rider to the ground. In another it is necessary to plunge directly into the mud up to the horse's side, and again he passes over the entangled roots of trees, worse if possible than the log-way before spoken of.

At one time he encounters a stump ; at another a tree ; and in the next place a nest of ground hornets, concealed under the log-way, which, if his horse should be dull or fatigued, will be sure to put new life into him, of that kind which will be very inconvenient, and perhaps dangerous to his rider. A circumstance of this kind occurred to me, in which I found myself in much danger,

from the difficulty of restraining my horse from plunging, and running upon logs, and among stumps and trees, and through deep sloughs of mire and clay.

Sept. 2.—My road lay partly on the high bank of the lake, and much of this distance the travelling is very bad, the land in general is of good quality, but little settled,—and partly on the lake beach, where the sand is deep, and the travelling heavy, unless it is passed in a calm just after a storm, when the sand will be hard, and the passing good. Passed through Hamburgh, and arrived at night fall at Mile Creek, which is one mile South of Buffalo, and put up at a very genteel house kept by a widow lady. Here are two new white cottages, situated one on each side of this beautiful stream, which winds its course, with a gentle current through a tract of fine rich interval land, in a Northern direction, and enters Buffalo harbour.

The scenery very much resembled that of yesterday. Had an extensive view of the opposite coast of Upper Canada, with various small villages and remote mountains gradually disappearing, or mingling themselves with the blue vault of heaven.

About three miles from Buffalo to the South on Mile Creek is a settlement of Indians, said to contain about 600 warriors, who own 12,000 acres of the best land in this part of the country. These are a part of the Cayuga, Seneca, and Onondaga tribes.

Sept. 3.—Spent the day at Buffalo, which is a flourishing and beautiful village at the outlet of Lake Erie, and twenty and a half miles above the Falls of Niagara, in a Southern direction two and a half miles South of Black Rock, one hundred and sixty North-East of Ashtabula in Ohio, three hundred North-East of Detroit, and about the same distance West of Albany. Population about 1,600.

This is a very well built town, containing many three-story brick buildings, principally on one street, extending about one and a half mile North and South, a handsome brick court-house, a bank, a beautiful framed Episcopal Church, in the Gothic style, painted white, and a small theatre now building.

The place has quite a commercial appearance, and through it passes all the trade between the Eastern States and the countries on the great Western lakes, and it probably will become a great commercial emporium at some future day. It is a port of entry and the capital of the County of Niagara, N. Y. Its harbour would be good, were it not for a bar at the mouth of Buffalo creek, which is the harbour, which is difficult of access in consequence of this bar at its mouth, brought in by the storms of wind from the West and South-West. At this time the inhabitants of Buffalo are building a wharf with a view to remedy this evil; but I think they cannot succeed unless they build it far into deep water. At present the vessels on the lake make a harbour at Black Rock.

At Buffalo I saw many Indians dressed in their own peculiar style.

This place was burnt by the English in the late war, except one block building belonging to a widow woman, as I was informed, which is still standing, which I saw. It is about in the center of the town.

Sept. 4.—Left Buffalo and passed through the village of Black Rock, which is delightfully situated on the Niagara river two and a half miles North of Buffalo. In this place are a number of handsome brick and stone buildings, and it has a good harbour; the river here is about a mile in width, and forty or fifty feet deep, and its current is about six miles an hour.

Opposite to this place is Fort Erie, and a small village, which makes a handsome appearance from the United States' side of the river. There is a ferry crossing the river at this place, where there appears to be much passing. Black Rock is eighteen miles South of Niagara Falls. Niagara river gradually widens in its passage, till it becomes five or six miles wide, and contains a number of islands, the principal of which are: Grand and Navy islands. My way lay near the Niagara river all the distance from Buffalo to the Falls, through a territory of excellent land; but very thinly settled,—people apparently poor,—Canada all the way in view, being separated from the United States, by a river only one mile wide. The scenery on this river is as delightful as any could be, where almost the whole distance, creation is presented to view, in all its uncultivated

grandeur and magnificence. On the right the prospect is confined almost the whole distance by the lofty moss-grown forest,—on the left close at hand, flows the vast Niagara, its rapid current discharging the accumulated waters of Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, and Superior, and embosoming a number of beautiful and fertile islands, covered with forest-trees, upon which the hand of industry has scarcely made any encroachment.

Grand-Island commences three or four miles below Black Rock, and terminates about one and a half or two miles above the Falls, and is about eleven and a half miles long, and from three to six miles broad, and contains nearly fifty thousand acres of land, of fine soil, which belongs to the State of New-York. This is the island for which Mordecai M. Noah, a Jew of the City of New-York, and Editor of the *National Advocate*, applied to the Legislature of that State, for a grant, for the purpose of establishing a Jewish colony upon it; but failed in his petition.

Navy-Island is nearly three and a half miles in circumference, and is about one and three-quarters above the Falls of Niagara.

The rapids commence about three-fourths of a mile below these islands, and continue three-fourths of a mile, or perhaps a little more, before the water makes its leap from the perpendicular ledge which crosses the river, and in this distance the fall is near sixty feet.

The rapids together with Goat-Island, which is situated at the very foot of them, are nearly as much a curiosity as the perpendicular falls.

Long before reaching the falls, the hoarse murmur proceeding from them fell indistinctly on the ear, which gradually increased, till it resembled the rumbling of distant thunder. At the distance of three or four miles, I began indistinctly to see the vapours arising from behind the intervening trees, which prevented my view of the waters; and on a nearer approach, the vapour appeared more abundant and dense, and from the position of the sun (which was declining in the West, in cloudless majesty,) put on a sombre hue, surmounted with a snow-white mist, edged with gold,—which constantly varied in form as it was impetuously driven upwards, by a strong current of air, formed by the descent of this immense column of water, and was thrown in eddies innumerable, baffling my feeble powers of description, and might be compared in appearance to an approaching thunder cloud, driven on rapidly by violent and opposing winds, cloud succeeding cloud, and form persuing form in such rapid succession, that the eye could but catch a glance of each, as they passed in review. Suddenly the rapids burst upon the view, tumbling, foaming, recoiling in innumerable whirlpools, and again leaping forward with maddening fury, from rock to rock, till it arrives at the precipice, where it makes the astonishing leap of one hundred and sixty feet perpendicular descent into the abyss below, where it rages, tumbling, foaming and boiling with inconceivable agitation, till its fury is partially exhausted by its own agitation, it flows off with a somewhat diminished velocity, continuing to be violent-

ly agitated, as it rapidly proceeds in its course, dashing against opposing rocks, and the perpendicular barriers which confine its course.

In its descent it appears to be one entire sheet of foam, suspended in mid-air, and is finely contrasted with the dark rocks of the vast chasm, into which it falls, which appear to threaten the beholder with instant and inevitable destruction.

The beholder, at the foot of the fall, is struck with awe, wonder, and astonishment, at the mighty power of the Creator. Here grandeur and sublimity are exhibited in the most advantageous manner, and the astonished beholder involuntarily exclaims: "how manifold are thy works, Lord God Almighty; in wisdom hast thou made them all."

At the bottom of the fall the water is so divided into foam and mist, as entirely to hide from the view the descending sheet of water. This mist ascending in various eddies, and rapidly driven in its ascent by the wind, caused by the descent of this immense body of water, forms beautiful clouds of every shade, from the purest white, to murky darkness.

The scenery around these falls is grand and beautiful almost beyond conception. This vast river, the outlet of all the Great Western lakes, at this place three-fourths of a mile wide, exhibiting its rapids, for more than half a mile above, divided at the fall by Goat Island, which is about one-third the distance from the Eastern shore, with which it is connected by a convenient bridge, the various mills on the East bank of the rapid, the

little village of Manchester, and a beautiful and magnificent stone villa at the head of the rapids, surrounded with groves of fruit trees of various kinds, and cultivated fields, the high hills on the West or the Canadian side, covered with extensive forests, with the exception of the highest point of land, near a quarter of a mile above the cataract, and about the same distance from the shore, on which is erected a beautiful and magnificent villa, which has a commanding view of the falls and the adjacent country, to a vast extent, the falls forming an obtuse angle of the current, about mid-way between Goat-Island and the Canadian shore, the rapids below the falls, tumbling and foaming along between two cliffs of three hundred feet perpendicular height, till they disappear in its various windings and contortions, the brown rocks hard by the foot of the cataract, the stunted shrubbery on the declivity of the rocks near the fall, altogether, form an assemblage of the grand and beautiful, no where else to be found in this part of the creation of God.

These rapids continue for seven miles below the falls, and end at Lewistown, which is twenty-nine miles North of Buffalo. In a number of places between the falls and the end of the rapids, a fog was distinctly seen rising above the top of these immensely high banks.

Whether or not the water has in a great length of time, worn this deep channel for itself through this great extent of rock, I am unable to determine.

The waters of Lake Erie and the Niagara river have a sea-green appearance, the cause of which I cannot assign.

Proceeded to Holt's tavern, five miles from the falls, and two from Lewistown. In view of this house, lives a family, who saw their husband and father killed and scalped before their eyes, by a party of Indians in the late war.

Sept. 5.—Early this morning I entered Lewistown, which is a pleasant village, situated at the termination of the rapids. From the heights, about a mile South-East of Lewistown, I had a most enchanting view of the town, the rocky ridge extending far to the North, capped with forest-trees, whose dark green foliage gently waving in the wind, had a pleasant and soothing effect upon the mind—on the left flows the noble Niagara, (its current having become calm and majestic,) to mingle its waters with those of Lake Ontario, which lies in front, extending in one vast sheet to the right and left farther than the eye can reach, appearing at this time a vast mirror, from whose surface was reflected every surrounding object,—opposite to Lewistown, in Upper Canada, is seen the beautiful, flourishing, and commercial village of Queenstown, at the head of navigation,—back of this is seen Queenstown Heights,—five miles down the river, and within half a mile of Lake Ontario, is situated the flourishing and pleasant town and fort of St. George,—about half a mile South-East of Lewistown is situated the Heights of Lewistown, which is an elevated plain, two hundred feet above the Niagara, where was fought

the battle of Lewistown in the late war between the Americans and English. All these things combined, as seen from this height, which is three hundred feet above the surface of the Ontario; form one of the most grand, extensive, rich, and enchantingly romantic views which can be imagined.

From this height I descended by a circuitous path cut upon the side of the hill into Lewistown, and turning to the right, proceeded on through Cambria to Hartland, passing through the Eleven-mile Woods, two miles or more of which was an indifferent log-way, partially covered with earth.

In all this distance, if I recollect right, there were but two indifferent log-houses, one of which is a tavern, and from necessity a stage-house.

Travelled this day on the Ridge-road, which lies from three to seven miles from Lake Ontario, all the way from Lewistown to Rochester, and is elevated but a few feet above the level of the surrounding country, and is composed of a fine loam, sand and gravel, and so much in the form of a large artificial turnpike, that I shall for distinction call it *Nature's Grand Turnpike*.

Between the two above-mentioned places the road is all the way excellent, the soil good, the face of the country level, and the streams few and small.

Hartland is distant from Niagara thirty-six miles.

It is conjectured that this ridge might, at some former period, have been the lake-shore, as it

much resembles a ridge, which is at present the shore of the lake, back of which for a long distance, is a narrow pond of water,—so for many miles at the right of the ridge on which the road passes, and close at hand, is a narrow marsh, in most places covered with coarse grass, and some of the way with small tamarac trees, all the way exhibiting marks of having been, at no very great distance of time, covered with water. The similarity of these things seem to render it probable, that this once was the beach of Lake Ontario.



Clarkson, (N. Y.) Sept. 6, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

As I have few remarks to make respecting the country through which I journeyed to-day, I shall do little more than name the places through which my course lay, viz.:—Ridgeway, Oak-Orchard, Gaines and Murray, to this place; all the way on the above-mentioned ridge,—the road the best I ever saw in so new a country, and nearly as good as it can be made. Land of good quality all this distance,—face of the country very level,—little variety in the scenery,—settlements on this road more numerous, than through the country I have passed farther West.

This place is sixty-three miles from Niagara, and eighty-four miles from Buffalo.

Sept. 7.—Passed through Clarkson four corners, where are a number of fine houses, and the village is flourishing, through Parma and Rochester, and put up at Eaton's, four and a half miles East of Rochester. Rochester is a large village, and rapidly increasing,—situated at the falls of the Genesee River.

Eight years ago, this place was a wilderness, or nearly so, containing but two or three log-buildings. It now contains between two hundred and three hundred buildings of different kinds, many of them elegant and durable, especially the manufactories of different kinds which are built on the rapids, many of which are of stone, and three stories high. Here are a number of extensive flouring mills, well situated for accomplishing much business, as they have an abundant and never failing supply of water from the rapids of the Genesee above the falls. In this village are three or four bridges crossing the Genesee: the one crossing at Main-street, is about ten or fifteen rods below where the Canal is to pass the rapids, which is to be carried over the bed of the river, on eight arches of stone, each fifty feet in extent.

In this place are five churches, one Presbyterian, one Episcopal, one Roman Catholic, one Baptist, and one Methodist.

This is not an handsome; but it is a manufacturing and commercial village, and contains 2,500 inhabitants.

One hundred buildings, as I am informed, have been put up, during the last twelve months.

Rochester will probably become one of the largest, most commercial and extensively manufacturing places in the western part of the country, because of its situation on the rapids of the Genesee, where labour-saving machines may be built almost without limitation—through it the canal is to pass, opening a ready communication to Albany and New-York—the head of navigation on the Genesee is immediately below the falls, by which there is a direct communication with Montreal and Quebec through Lake Ontario.

As I spent but little time in this place, I can only give an imperfect description of the falls or surrounding scenery, as I had but a transient view of the upper cataract, as I passed it on the road, without turning aside to view it. I can merely say, that the scenery in and about Rochester is grand and romantic, in an extreme degree. There are here three perpendicular falls within less than a mile. The first is one hundred and five feet, perpendicular descent, then the river flows on a few rods, and makes a perpendicular leap of twenty-five feet, and continuing its course some distance farther, is precipitated from another perpendicular ledge, one hundred and thirty feet, after which it flows on calmly for seven or eight miles and discharges itself into Lake Ontario.—Carthage, which was designed to be a rival of Rochester, is situated a little way below the falls, and contains a number of beautifully white houses romantically situated in the midst of the forest.

Rochester is about eighty-five miles from Niagara falls, one hundred and six from Buffalo via Niagara.

Sept. 8.—I proceeded on through Pittsford, through which the canal passes. This is a pleasant little village, and well built, and may probably become a considerable place in process of time. It has one house for public worship, and much good land. Between Rochester and Pittsford, a distance of eight or nine miles; the face of the country is uneven, composed of small sand hills, and the soil is very poor. Timber principally small white-oak, and shrub-oak under wood. After leaving Pittsford my way lay through Mendon, (a place of little note.) Victor, which is a small village, containing one Presbyterian church with a steeple, and one for Methodists. Passing on, I suddenly and abruptly from the forest, entered the street of Canandaigua. In the morning it rained, and the travelling was very heavy. Directly in front and at the foot of the street, you have an extensive view of Canandaigua Lake, from whose surface, as from a mirror, was reflected, all the surrounding scenery, composed of beautiful villas, cultivated fields, lofty and extensive forests, green sloping banks, forming, altogether, a most luxuriant prospect.

In the village are many gentlemen's residences, which would be an ornament to any city or country, among which the most elegant, belongs to Gideon Granger, Esq. which is elegant and airy, and the inclosures about the house, are laid out in the most tasteful manner, and ornamented with a

profusion of the most beautiful forest and fruit-trees, and the out-buildings and offices are so arranged, as to give the whole a neat, rich, and luxuriant appearance combined with convenience.

As I have in another letter given a description of this and some other places, I shall make but a few remarks concerning it and them, and shall endeavour, as much as possible, to avoid repetition.

This town is in Ontario county, N. York, fifteen miles W. of Geneva, one hundred and ten W. of Utica, about two hundred and five W. of Albany, and by the turnpike, eighty-five miles E. of Buffalo, and by the ridge road via Rochester and Niagara, about one hundred and twenty-eight miles E. of Buffalo.

The Lake is about fifteen miles long, and from one to one and a half miles wide. The outlet is at the north end by Canandagua river, which after a passage of about forty-five or forty-six miles, unites with the Seneca river. The general course of the river is north-east. The land in this vicinity is very fine.

From Canandagua I proceeded on as far as Gorham, five miles, and put up at Hart's, where I found good accommodations; the host, his lady and family very pleasant and obliging.

Sept. 9th.—From Gorham, I passed through Geneva, fifteen miles east of Canandagua. Geneva is the most pleasantly situated place, which I have seen in any part of the country. It is located on the west bank of the Seneca lake, near the outlet, on elevated ground, which descends rather rapidly to the Lake, and is cultivated to

the water's edge. Many elegant houses are situated just upon the brow of this elevated bank, their highly cultivated and beautiful gardens lying on the declivity between them and the water—at the bottom of these gardens lie a number of small sloops, and at this time eight of these vessels have just left the harbour, and are under way at different distances from the shore, exhibiting the pleasing appearance of commerce; directly in front, (as I am at this time at the north end of the Lake,) I have a view of the Lake and the adjacent country, with its luxuriant vegetation, and many fine country-seats situated near its banks, for the distance of fifteen or twenty miles. This is one of the richest and most luxuriant scenes any where to be found in the United States. I have particular reference to its native richness and beauty.

This is a commercial place, and rapidly increasing. The public buildings are, the bank of Geneva, an Episcopal, a Presbyterian, a Dutch Reformed, and Methodist church, and an Academy. Here is also a glass manufactory, and two Gazettes are published at this place. The Lake is from three to four miles wide, and near forty miles in length. Geneva is ninety-five miles W. of Utica, one hundred and ninety-five W. of Albany, one hundred E. of Buffalo.

The town of Seneca, in which is the village of Geneva, contains about 3,500 souls. This place is one of the east towns in Ontario county. East of the Lake, and between it and Cayuga Lake, lies Seneca county.

Crooked-lake is connected by a river flowing from it east, with Seneca lake. Seneca river leaves the lake at the N. E. corner, and runs an east course as far as Seneca falls, then N. E. as far as Cicero, a distance of about fifty-two miles, where it unites with Oswego river, a distance of sixty miles from Seneca lake.—It receives the waters of Canandaigua, Cayuga, Owasco, Skeneateles, and Onondaga lakes, by means of rivers flowing from each, and entering it at different points. Next to the east of Geneva is Waterloo, which is situated on the north side of the Seneca river, five miles from the former place. It is the seat of justice for Seneca county. It has an elegant court house of brick, a jail, and a printing office. This place has increased with wonderful rapidity, having been built entirely since the war, and may probably contain 1,500 people, and continues to increase. At this place are falls on the Seneca river, around which a canal is constructed, with a number of substantial locks, which form fine mill-seats. This place appears like a busy manufacturing village. Here every thing is new, elegant and substantial, and the eye is not pained with the view of falling towers, tottering walls or buildings in a state of decay. The waters of the Seneca river have the same sea-green appearance as the Niagara river and Lake Erie. There is nothing very peculiar in the scenery of this place. For two or three miles west of the town, directly on the road, the land is sandy and barren. Two or three miles N. E. of Waterloo is the little, busy

village of Seneca falls, where are additional locks for the passage of boats around the falls.

There is a very considerable boat navigation on this (Seneca) river.

From Seneca falls I proceeded on, and arrived at Junius upon the west of Cayuga lake, and put up at W. Sherman's, just as the sun was sinking in the west with brilliant majesty, casting the shadow of the western shore, with all its forest, dwellings and cultivated fields, far into the lake, and illuminating with its setting rays, all the eastern shore, as far as the eye could reach, and just about to withdraw its irradiating and vivifying influence, for the night, from one of the richest and most fertile territories in America, to revisit it again on the coming morning, in majesty and glory, as if pleased with beholding a scene of so much variety, richness and beauty.

The land between Seneca and Cayuga lakes, is probably as good if not the best of equal extent in N. America.

Sept. 10.—Being desirous to have a view of the lake and the surrounding country, at the rising of the sun, I was up early, and as my lodgings were in a favourable situation, I had an opportunity without trouble, of gratifying my wishes.

The god of day ascending in his fiery car, from behind the elevated bank on the east of the lake, cast a lengthened shadow of this extensive eminence, upon the placid bosom of this delightful water, which like a mirror of purest crystal, reflected every variety of surface and every object, with a distinctness most accurately defined, representing

hills with the forests, green pastures with the herds of sheep and cattle feeding and reclining upon them—elegant villas, and the pleasant little village of Aurelius, situated on the sloping eastern bank, directly opposite the station which I occupied, and connected therewith by an elegant and substantial bridge, of a mile in length.

At the same time, the first rays of an ascending sun, tinged with gold the tops of the extensive forest, stretching far to the south, till objects are lost in distance. In an instant the refulgent rays of light bursting from behind the hill, fell upon the surface of the lake, at once changing it in appearance to a lake of molten brass of such intense brilliancy, that the eye could not steadfastly behold it, the shadows of the night retiring to the east, vanish from the view.

The length of this lake is about forty miles, and the breadth from one to four miles. It discharges its waters at the north end into Seneca river. A steam-boat plies between the Cayuga bridge and Ithica, at the head of the lake, and is there met by stages, which meet the steam-boats on the Hudson river, if I recollect right, at Newberg, where passengers take the boat and arrive in New-York in two days from the bridge. Fare on this rout from Aurelius or Junius, to New-York, twelve dollars.

Next place of any consequence, east of Aurelius, is Auburn, which is a very growing and handsomely built village, though not pleasantly situated, being located on low ground on the outlet of Ogwago lake. This village is in the township of

Aurelius. Its distance from Geneva is about twenty-five miles E.; seventy miles W. of Utica; one hundred and seventy W. of Albany. Population is about 2,500 or 3,000. This village is eight miles east of Cayuga.

In this place are many stores, many manufactories, many mills, and many mechanics.

The side-walks are paved with flat stone. At this time, as it has lately been raining, the centre of the streets are muddy.

The public buildings are—a penitentiary or State prison, capable of containing from 1,000 to 1,200 prisoners, situated a little distance out of the village to the north, which makes a very noble appearance, and is a great ornament to the place; the bank of Auburn, a handsome brick building on the south of the main street; two houses for public worship, viz. one for Presbyterians and one for Episcopalians, both of which are handsome, and add much to the appearance of the place; and a building is now erecting for a Presbyterian Theological Seminary or College, and will probably be finished this fall, which is a spacious and substantial stone building, and highly ornamental to the village. This place exhibits an appearance of much wealth and business. It is the capital of Cayuga county.

I next passed through Skeneateles, which is a post-village in Marcellus, seven miles east of Auburn, county of Onondaga, and is one hundred and sixty three or four miles west of Albany, situated on the outlet of Skeneateles lake. It contains about 1,000 people, has a handsome Pres-

byterian church, and is a flourishing place, and beautifully situated exactly at the northern extremity of the lake, of which, from this place, we have a delightful view, almost its whole extent, which is between fourteen and sixteen miles in length, and about one and a half miles in breadth. The lake discharges its waters into Seneca river, by an outlet ten miles long. There are excellent mill-seats on this river at this place, and here the turnpike divides into the Cherry-Valley turnpike and the one that leads to Utica. A few miles east of Skeneateles village, is the village of Marcellus, through which I passed one mile, and just at night-fall put up at Lawrence's, a very good house kept by a widow lady.

Marcellus is a neat little village, situated in a deep valley, between two rather steep hills, and it is all at once presented to view, from their summits on either hand, when the traveller has no expectation of meeting with any settlement, and the effect which the appearance of a flourishing village so unexpectedly, has upon the mind is the more pleasing and striking, from the fact, that it was not looked for at the time. Through this valley flows a considerable stream, proceeding from, (if I recollect the name,) the Tiscoe lake, and forming good mill-seats. The face of the country over which I have passed to-day, is quite uneven, but not remarkably stony, and the soil is in general good.

Sept. 11.—Next east of Marcellus, is the town of Onondaga, which has two villages, viz : Onondaga-West-Hill, and Onondaga-Hollow. This

town is fourteen miles east of Skeneateles village, one hundred and thirty west of Albany. This is the capital of Onondaga county, and a post-town, containing about 4,000 souls. West-Hill is a pretty settlement, containing many handsome dwellings, stores, shops, &c.

The public buildings are, a court-house, a jail, an Episcopalian and a Presbyterian church. Contrary to what is a general fact respecting villages in this part of the country, there is no stream running through this place.

Two miles east of West-Hill, is the village of Onondaga-Hollow, which is situated in a very large valley of most excellent land, which is bounded on the east and west, by two very high and steep hills, the height of the one on the west I should judge to be about four hundred feet, and the one on the east is still higher.

From the summit of the hill on the west, is a fine view of the valley below, laid out in lots, and cultivated like a garden, producing in great abundance, wheat, rye, Indian corn, potatoes, vines, grass, &c. presenting at this season of the year, to the eye of the spectator, a rich and luxuriant landscape—directly in front is the flourishing village of Onondaga-hollow, containing one house for public worship, a spacious academy of stone, four stories high, a state armory, a printing-office, and a market in ruins—to the right and left is an extensive view of the opposite hills, covered from the base to the summit with forest trees of various kinds—through the valley at the eastern extremity of the settlement, flows, in a winding direction, a

beautiful little stream, which is the outlet of Onondaga lake. Directly in front, and at the east of the village, at the summit of a ridge running directly up the main hill, at the height of one hundred or one hundred and fifty feet, is situated the armory, which is a stone building—in front of the building, occupying the whole of this narrow and singular ridge, lies a beautiful green, extending from the arsenal almost to the little river, and directly through the centre lies a gravel foot-walk, leading up the ridge to the before-mentioned fabric. The situation of this building is the most pleasant and romantic, and commands a view the most rich, luxuriant, enchanting and singular, almost any where to be found. Onondaga lake is nearly six miles in length, and is connected with the Seneca river by the above-mentioned stream.

On the borders of this lake are the celebrated salt-springs of Salina, the [strongest and most abundant in the United States.

“The town of Salina,” according to Morse’s Gazetteer, “embraces Onondaga lake and the principal salt-springs and salt-works of the State. The village of Salina on the S. E. side of the lake, contained in 1812, about ninety houses and eighty salt works. The village of Liverpool on the N. E. side of the lake, contained at the same time eighty houses and thirty-five salt-works.

Every gallon of water yields from sixteen to twenty-seven ounces of salt, being much stronger than any other salt-springs in the United States. The quantity manufactured in 1810, was four hundred thirty-five thousand eight hundred and

forty bushels, and it may be increased to an unlimited extent. Salina is connected by a branch canal one and a half miles long with the great canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson."

Proceeding eastward, I passed no place of any considerable consequence, for about ten miles, when I arrived unexpectedly at Manlius square, which is situated also in a deep valley, through which flows a stream sufficient to turn mills. This is a fine, lively village, and contains three houses for public worship, a large four story stone building, designed for a cotton-factory, but it is not in operation; a printing-office, many stores and fine dwellings, and may contain 1,500 people.

Proceeding on four or five miles, I arrived just at night at the small village of Chitteningo, situated on a narrow, marshy valley, between two high hills, the one on the east, is steep and sandy, and covered with evergreens. Through this valley flows Chitteningo creek, which proceeds from a lake in Cazenovia, and enters Oneida lake.

In this place, is a small one-story house for public worship, with a spire, and perhaps 200 or 300 persons.

The soil is rich and full of springs. Below the settlement, the valley widens, the soil is much drier, the land well cultivated, and very rich, and yields abundantly.

Those parts of the valley which are not cleared from timber, are covered with hemlock, and very much resemble a swamp. The great western canal passes one mile north of this place.

The waters are in general sulphurous, and notwithstanding the dampness of the situation, still it is very healthy, as the inhabitants inform me.

Sept. 12.—Leaving Chitteninigo, I passed through Conaseraga, a small village of little consequence, then through Lenox, where is an elegant Presbyterian church, two or three taverns, one of which, kept by Webb, is an excellent house, the accommodations are convenient, and the landlord and family uncommonly polite and obliging. This place is situated on high ground by the Oneida lake, and on the great western canal, in Madison county, about twenty-six miles west of Utica, and one hundred and nineteen west of Albany. The town contains about 1,800 inhabitants. Iron ore is found in this place, and a company for working it was incorporated in 1815.

Next place is Oneida-castle, where the Oneida tribe of Indians reside, amounting to about 1,000, many of whom I saw dressed in their own peculiar habiliments. Here and in the last mentioned towns, the country is remarkably hilly, and the soil in general good. There is upon the surface of the Oneida hills a very remarkable and singular appearance, for which I cannot at all account. For the distance of one or two miles, and perhaps more, on each side of the road, both where the land is cleared and where it is not, the surface of the ground is covered with very small tumuli, from one foot to six or eight feet in length, resembling graves which have been made just long enough for the grass to have formed over them, a beautiful carpet of green, or rather more strongly resembling

the hillocks which are formed by the overturning of trees by a violent wind, after the trunks and roots have entirely decayed; but I hardly suppose that they can be accounted for in either of these ways, as they are too much crowded to be accounted for, by the last mentioned cause, and vastly too numerous and extensive to justify an opinion that they are human graves. I should be much pleased to see a solution of this difficulty, or a rational cause for so singular an appearance in this place, which I have seen in no other place, neither read or heard of any such phenomenon.

Departing from Oneida, I came to Vernon, a handsome and flourishing town of some magnitude, containing one church and a number of glass factories. It is about seventeen miles West of Utica, and one hundred and ten West of Albany. Proceeding on, having turned to the left in the centre of Vernon, leaving the turnpike on the right, in order that I might pass through the town of Whitesborough; I arrived just at night at Westmoreland, and put up at Doolittle's, a neat and excellent inn.

This place is ten miles West of Utica, eight South of Rome, one hundred and six West of Albany. Population about 2,900.

Sept. 13.—Having left Westmoreland, I came through Whitesborough, which is a beautiful, thriving, and wealthy looking village, in Whites-town, which contains the villages of Utica, New-Hartford, and Whitesborough.

Whitestown is the capital of Oneida County. and is situated on the Mohawk, at the head of

boat navigation. The population of this town was, in 1810, about 5,000, which has greatly increased since that time.

Whitesborough may contain, perhaps 1,500 people. The land here, and between this place and Utica, is very good ; and the crops produced of every kind are abundant. From Westmoreland to Whitesborough the country is hilly, and I descended quite a long and steep hill, just as I entered the village, from the West. From this eminence I had so clear and distinct a view of Whitesborough at its base, that I could very nearly distinguish every individual house in the village, which is built principally on one street, of a mile and three quarters, or two miles in length, running nearly East and West—with its numerous elegant buildings, handsome court-house, jail, and two churches, one for Baptists, and the other for Presbyterians—just at the foot of the hill, and between it and the village, is seen the canal, extending in view to the South-East, as far as Utica, a distance of four miles, with its numerous, elegant, and substantial little arched bridges, thrown across it at short distances—at the distance of four miles South-East, is seen less distinctly, the beautiful, flourishing, commercial and compact village of Utica, with its numerous spires, rich public and private buildings,—many elegant country residences in its vicinity—the intervening level country, between the two villages, most handsomely laid out in convenient inclosures, and highly cultivated, its rich surface every where covered with the most luxuriant and abundant

crops of various kinds, resembling an extensive, carefully cultivated, and fruitful garden,—the little village of Schuyler a little to the left of Utica, on the Northern border of the Mohawk flats, which are at this place about one or one and an half mile in breadth, rich and fertile almost beyond imagination, and at this time groaning under the burden of their own fertility,—the abundant maize-harvest waving majestically in the wind,—the flocks and herds feeding and reclining upon its bosom,—the rapid Mohawk, at this time much swollen with recent rains, with majesty and grandeur winding its accelerated course, through one of the most rich, and most highly romantic territories in America;—the distant hills covered with forest trees of various foliage: all these things combined, form a most rich, beautiful, grand and romantic landscape, upon which the eye delights to dwell, and the mind loves to contemplate.

In entering the village of Whitesborough, I crossed the canal on an elegant bridge, with substantial stone abutments, hewn and laid in lime-mortar, and having reached the centre of the village, saw a canal-boat in quick motion, proceeding, as was judged, about as rapidly as a horse would in a moderate trot; but as the horse was not in view, I cannot say that that was its gait.

It has been told me, that the horses are not permitted to travel on the canal, faster than in a walk, and I cannot deny the assertion, although the motion of the boat appeared to me to be much more rapid.

As the water in the canal was invisible, from the situation I occupied at the time the boat passed, the boat made a singular appearance, seeming to make a smooth and easy progress upon the surface of the ground, without any apparent cause.

The road crosses the canal again between Whitesborough and Utica, and again at that place. Some of the boats for passengers are large and elegant. They draw from two and a half to three feet water, and will conveniently accommodate from fifty to seventy-five persons. The boats for the transportation of goods, generally are from forty to sixty tons burthen, and are drawn by one horse; the boats for passengers are drawn by two or three horses tandem. At this time the water is let into the canal for nine miles below Utica, from which place to Montezuma, a village in the town of Mentz, in the County of Cayuga, State of New-York, which is twelve miles North-West of Auburn, and ninety-six miles West of Utica, it is navigable, making the whole distance navigable at this time from Montezuma one hundred and five miles.

Utica is a large and very compact thriving village, resembling a city in miniature; its streets are named, and there is the appearance of much business.

It is an incorporated post-village; it is the emporium of the extensive Western section of the State of New-York, situated on the South bank of the Mohawk, on the scite of old fort Schuyler, North-West of Albany ninety-three miles, seven-

ty-nine miles North-West of Schenectady, and about fifteen miles North-East of Rome.

It has five houses for public worship ; one Episcopal, one Presbyterian, one Scotch Presbyterian, one Baptist, and one Methodist ; four printing offices, two banks, and an academy.

At this place center the principal turnpikes from various parts of the State. It is the key of travel and commerce between a large portion of the Western country and the Atlantic. The Erie canal will probably add much to its importance. North latitude 43° , longitude about 4° East of Washington.

Genesee-street, which runs South from the bridge which crosses the Mohawk, is as compactly built, and the buildings are nearly as elegant and substantial as in any of the streets of New-York or Philadelphia. The same remarks will apply to some other streets. The population is supposed to be 3,500, or 4,000.

The growth of this place has been astonishingly rapid.

Thirty-four years ago it contained *only three log-buildings* ; and at this time it probably contains six hundred, mostly of brick. At that time there was no road cut through the wilderness to the pleasant little village of New-Hartford in the same town : But all these regions, which are now so thickly settled, so highly cultivated, and so fertile, that they might, with a good degree of propriety, be styled the garden of New-York, if not of the United States ; were a waste howling wilderness, haunts only of savage beasts and uncivilized men.

From Utica I passed the Mohawk upon a substantial bridge, which is covered, and crossed the flats, which I should judge were from one mile to one and a half mile wide, the soil extremely dark and rich, and to all appearance might be cultivated for centuries without manure, and produce good crops every year when the season should be favourable.

Passing through Schuyler and Germantown, I arrived just at the close of the day, at Herkimer, and put up for the night at Caswell's, who keeps a good house, and is obliging to his guests.

From Utica to Herkimer, the soil of the Mohawk flats is of the very best quality, and is all the way well cultivated.

On each side of the river beyond the flats, the country is hilly, and somewhat stony. Through this distance, the course of the river is serpentine, and its current much of the way rapid. The canal is in view most of the way on the opposite or South side of the river. In some places, it passes over valleys upon arches, raised from five to fifteen or twenty feet. There are many handsome bridges over the canal, having abutments of hewn stone, laid in lime, and raised to such a height, as to give free passage under them, to the boats and the horses by which they are drawn.

Boats now pass on this canal about the distance of one hundred and five miles, and can perform the whole course in twenty-four hours. This canal in its whole extent, passes through one of the most fertile regions in all the United States.

Herkimer is the capital of the County of the same name, situated on the North side of the Mohawk, fourteen miles East of Utica, seventy-nine West of Albany, and sixty-five West of Schenectady. It has a church, jail and court-house. The village of Herkimer on the West side of West-Canada Creek, near its junction with the Mohawk, and Little Falls on the Mohawk, at Little Falls, are both in this town.

The population of Herkimer is about 3,000.

Previous to the opening of the Grand Western Canal, there was a canal around the Little Falls, which place possesses great advantages for the erection of machinery to be moved by water.

The situation of the village of Herkimer is very delightful, being bounded on the North by a hill of some considerable height, somewhat in form, like a crescent, covered with forest trees, and having in front, and extending far to the right and left, the broad flats of the Mohawk, in a high state of cultivation, and covered with abundant crops of corn and grass; farther in front flows the noble Mohawk in slow and solemn grandeur; and close by its side lies motionless, its unnatural daughter, of apparently dwarfish importance, but destined to rob its maternal stream of all its commercial consequence—close upon these waters rise hills of various elevation, up whose rugged sides is seen to wind a narrow path-way of difficult ascent, till it reaches its summit, just at which point is indistinctly seen through the branches of the intervening shrubbery, a farm-house with its little cultivated enclosures—and on the left is in-

distinctly heard the hoarse murmuring of West-Canada Creek, as it tumbles and foams from the hills on the North.

Canajoharie, (N. Y.) Sept. 14th, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

Leaving Herkimer, I crossed the Mohawk, and the canal just on the South shore, ascending the above mentioned hill, across which the road lay, and descended into the town of German-flats, on the South side of the river, five miles South-East of Herkimer, and seventy-five West of Albany.

Population of the town, 2,300 nearly. Here was built fort Herkimer, which is often mentioned in the history of American warfare. The German-Flats, lying on both sides of the river, is an extensive tract of alluvial land, which has lost none of its fertility by annual cultivation during a whole century.

The inhabitants of German-Flats, the most of them, appear to be poor and extremely filthy.

The facility of acquiring wealth at this place, is, as I suppose, the cause of their poverty.

This is the operation of the cause : The soil is excessively rich, and abundant crops may be easily obtained, and wealth might be rapidly acquired, and independence secured, by industry and economy : But the fertility of the soil, and the ease with which property may be procured, operates

upon most of the people, as a cause of indolence. In consequence of indolence, the land is badly cultivated, bad habits contracted, people become negligent of their persons and dwellings, the crops are indifferent, the people are squalid in their appearance, their dwellings and other buildings go to decay, and poverty attends, or is the sequel of all these causes.

In the town of German-Flats is a handsome edifice for public worship.

Crossing a high and rugged hill I entered Danube, which is a place of no great importance. I ought to remark here, that I saw many orchards, loaded with fruit, which might be said of most of the towns through which I have passed.

Proceeding on through Minden, I arrived just at night, at the compact little village of Canajoharie, opposite to Palatine. Canajoharie may contain (in the village) 150 or 200 inhabitants, tumbled together, between two little hills, and is a busy place for so small a one.

The road lay almost all the way from Herkimer to Canajoharie near the Mohawk, the canal sometimes on one hand, and sometimes on the other, of which, and the Mohawk, and the surrounding country, the traveller has an advantageous and enchanting prospect.

At Little-Falls there are a number of locks, if my memory serves me right, there are five within a mile or a little more.

I saw and examined a lock farther East, where the water was not let into the canal, and found it

made of a durable stone of an iron-grey colour, neatly hewn, and handsomely laid in lime-mortar.

Men are at work on the canal in various places between Utica and the Hudson, as well as on the Western section, between Montezuma and the lake, and it is in rapid progress towards completion.

The country through which my way lay from Herkimer to Canajoharie, is in general hilly and stony; the soil for the most part is good. In Minden there is a plain, which is almost covered with small cobling stones, of the silicious kind, about the size of a man's fist, some larger, and others less.

In Danube, if I mistake not, is quarried the grey stone, of which it has been said the locks are built. In some instances they are transported in waggons from five to ten miles.

The village of Canajoharie is about fifty-one miles West-North-West of Albany, thirty-seven West of Schenectady, and forty-two East of Utica.

Sept. 15.—Crossed the Mohawk from Canajoharie to Palatine, which is situated on the North side of the river, on a good and substantial toll-bridge. From the South shore the bridge is thrown across a part of the river, on to an island, which stands about in the centre of the river, and from the island it is continued to the North bank, which is high, and from the bridge we immediately enter the village of Palatine. Palatine is a post-town in Montgomery county, and is fifty-one miles North-West of Albany, and contains about

3,200 people. There is no village of any considerable consequence in this town.

The Mohawk turnpike lies on the North side of the river, and is paved almost the whole distance from Utica to Albany. On this road I proceeded on through Amsterdam, a post-town in Montgomery county, containing about 3,000 people. There is a small village in this town. About four miles East of Amsterdam I put up for the night, at Groat's tavern. This is a good tavern both with regard to the accommodations of the house, and the fare; and the charges are rather extravagant; but still it is a house to be desired by travellers, who wish to meet with kind attention, after the fatigue of travelling.

The land upon the flats continues good; but close on the left the high and rocky mountains present their naked cliffs, in some places so near as in appearance to threaten the traveller with instant destruction, by the huge fragments which seem ready to precipitate themselves with tremendous force into the valley below.

The summits of these rocks are all the way crowned with forest trees of various sizes and kinds, mostly evergreen, and up its almost perpendicular front, are frequently seen little foot paths, leading to the summit, from whence wood is projected with *lilliputian* grandeur, for the use of the cottages at its foot.

Country travelled through to-day, not much settled.

The river is rapid and full of islands, some of which are of considerable size, and well cultiva-

ted. Almost the whole distance of this day's ride the canal is distinctly in view on the opposite side of the river, and much of the way so near the river, that the earth, which is excavated from the canal, is thrown directly into the Mohawk, and I have my fears that these alluvial banks may be washed away by the current of the Mohawk; but I suppose wiser heads than mine have planned and directed the manner in which it should be finished. All day, people were seen busily employed in the canal, and it will probably be completed, and navigable as far as Schenectady early in the summer of 1822, and in 1823 it is expected that the whole extent from the Hudson to Erie lake, a distance, by the course of the canal, of near three hundred and fifty miles, will be finished, furnishing an inland navigation, to the head of Lake Superior of one thousand five hundred and thirty-six miles.

Sept. 16.—Travelled near the Mohawk to Schenectady. The Mohawk flats, most of the way more narrow than farther up the river. The elevated lands back of the meadows inferiour in quality, and somewhat stony. The hills on the left not so high as those I had already passed. Passing the Mohawk on a toll-bridge, which has seven piers and eight arches, I entered Schenectady from the North. Schenectady lies on the South side of the river. Although the compact part of the city is regularly laid out on a plain, yet it is a very uninviting place, in its appearance. The modern buildings are principally of brick, and built in modern style; but by far the greatest

number of buildings are of the Dutch order of architecture, and the city makes a very uncouth appearance. The streets are narrow, dirty, and some of them crooked, and the whole breadth of most of them, including the side walks, are paved with round stone, which makes the walking in them very unpleasant, and painful. In consequence of the decaying state of the buildings, the place looks very old, and indeed there is reason why it should, as it has been founded about one hundred and thirty years. Many buildings were destroyed by fire in this city about six years since, the ruins of which in many places still remain, which strongly shows that the place is not rapidly increasing in wealth or population. The number of inhabitants is about 6,510.

“Union College in this city was incorporated in 1794, and is a flourishing institution. The college edifices are finely situated on an elevated spot of ground, and contain accommodations for more than two hundred students. The philosophical apparatus is respectable. The library contains about five thousand volumes.

The officers in 1820, were a president, four professors, one of moral philosophy, one of mathematics, one of Greek and Latin languages, one of modern languages, and two tutors. The number of students at the same time two hundred and forty-five. The annual expense of a student, including board, tuition, and books, is about \$140.

"The Commencement is on the fourth Wednesday in July."*

Schenectady is about fourteen and a half miles North-West of Albany, and seventy-eight and a half miles South-East of Utica.

The Mohawk river, of which I have had occasion to speak so often, "rises twenty miles North of Rome, and running South of East, passes by Rome, Utica, and Schenectady, and after a course of one hundred and thirty-five miles, falls into the Hudson by several mouths between Troy and Waterford. The navigation of the river is interrupted by numerous rapids and falls, the principal of which is the Cohoes, two miles from its mouth, which is much admired for its beauty and sublimity. The river which is here between three hundred and four hundred yards broad, descends, at high water in one sheet, to the depth of seventy feet. About three-fourths of a mile below, a bridge has been thrown across the Mohawk, from which the view of the falls is inexpressibly grand. At Rome there is a canal, one and a half mile long, connecting the Mohawk with Wood Creek, and opening a communication through this creek, Oneida Lake, and Oswego river, into Lake Ontario."†

The Erie canal passes along the South bank of this river, as far as Rome, which is about one hundred and nine miles West-North-West of its mouth.

* Morse's Gazetteer.

† Ibid.

From Schenectady to Albany, a distance of a little more than fourteen miles in an Eastern direction, is a territory of pine and shrub-oak, which is little better than a barren waste, composed principally of sand hills, having but a few scattered houses on the road, almost all of which are taverns; among them are some good ones, but most of them are very indifferent, and some bad.

At three o'clock, P. M. I arrived in the City of Albany, which is situated on the West bank of the Hudson, one hundred and sixty miles North of New-York, and thirty miles North of Hudson.

It is the seat of government of the State of New-York, and next to that city, is the most populous, most commercial, and most wealthy place in the State. Its situation in a commercial point of view is highly advantageous, being near the head of sloop navigation on the Hudson: it will shortly also be connected with Lake Erie and Lake Champlain by means of canals. A sufficient supply of excellent water is brought into the city, from a spring five miles distant, by means of an aqueduct, which distributes it to every house.

Its public buildings are, the Capital, an elegant stone building, a superb Academy of free-stone, a jail, eleven houses for public worship, four banks, and some others.

Albany is very compactly built, extending about a mile and three-quarters along the river, and somewhat more than a mile back from the river in the widest place.

It is a very busy place. The streets are constantly crowded with transportation waggons, which are employed in carrying various articles of commerce to the Western interior, and bringing back such articles, as the extensive Western country affords, among which, furs are an important article, and vast quantities are brought into this city. Much business is done between this city and New-York upon the Hudson river.

From the roof of the house lately occupied by the Vice-President of the United States, I had a most enchanting view of Albany and the surrounding country.

From this elevation I could distinctly trace, as on a map, almost all its streets; and at one view see all the bustle of a large commercial city—its public buildings—the many verdant hills in its immediate vicinity—the noble Hudson peaceably pursuing its course through a rich and delightful country, its waters whitened with the canvass of commerce-fraught shipping—the beautiful town of Greenbush on the opposite shore—the United States barracks of dazzling whiteness, a little to the right, and about a mile from the shore, situated on a beautiful eminence,—the verdant banks of the Hudson—a highly cultivated country—various eminences more remote, and still more distant mountains; and far to the right the rugged Catskill towering to the skies.

Greenbush is a post-town in the county of Rensselaer, and contains about 4,500 or 5,000 inhabitants.

City of New-York, Sept. 21, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

At ten o'clock, P. M. I left Albany in the packet sloop Ancona, Capt. Winslow, for New-York. As there was no moon-light, I had no opportunity to see the country. I retired to my berth, with much regret that I was deprived of the privilege of viewing the scenery through which I passed.

At day-break we hove in sight of the City of Hudson, which lies on the East side of the river, thirty miles below Albany, and one hundred and thirty North of New-York. It is the capital of Columbia County. It is situated on a high point of land, which makes out into the river, and terminates in a bluff.

On each side of the town are bays of considerable extent. It has increased very rapidly. Two years after it was founded it contained 1,500 people; at this time it probably contains near 6,000 souls. It is regularly laid out, has an academy, four houses for public worship, two banks, four printing establishments, &c. The streams near the city afford fine mill-seats. It is a commercial and manufacturing place. The soil of this place is a stiff clay, of a white appearance, and consequently in dry weather it is very dusty, and in wet, very muddy.

It makes a fine appearance, as we sail down the river, in which position it shows to the best advantage.

The little town of Athens, containing about 1,100 people, lies opposite to Hudson on the west side of the river.

Five miles below Hudson, on the west side of the river, is situated the town of Catskill, which has a population of about 5,000. The village of Catskill lies on a river of the same name, which enters the Hudson at this place, and forms a good harbour for sloops. The population of the village is probably about 2,000.

In the village are two houses for public worship, an academy, a bank, and the usual county-buildings. It is the capital of the county of Greene.

The Catskill mountains are on the west of the Hudson river, and extend through the counties of Schoharie, (which is west of the county of Albany,) Albany, Greene and Ulster.

The two highest points as estimated by Capt. Patridge, are, the Round-top, 3,804 feet, and High Peak, 3,718 feet above the ocean.

Bristol, a little settlement, is about six or seven miles below Catskill on the same side of the river.

Red-hook, a village in Rhinebeck, is situated on the east side of the Hudson river in Dutchess county, seventeen miles below the city of Hudson, and forty-seven miles from Albany. It is a small village. Near this place are two very delightful country-seats.

The scenery upon this river is rich, beautiful, and awfully grand. The noble Hudson, on whose placid bosom the vessel quietly glides, its motion

perceptible only by the approach and recession of hamlets, elegant country residences, hills, valleys and mountains—the verdant banks and small eminences a little removed, still farther from the view, mountain rising above mountain, till their summits appear to support the blue vault of heaven, the view incessantly changing as we proceed; finely cultivated fields, green pastures, furnishing abundant support to numerous herds of cattle, extensive orchards, loaded with the delicious fruits of autumn; groves and verdant lawns, all combine to fill up this romantic picture.

Rhinebeck is a post-town in Dutchess county, sixty-three miles south of Albany, and has a population of about 5,000. It has one Methodist and three Dutch Reformed churches. This town includes the village of Red-hook.

Esopus is a small village in Ulster county, on the west of the Hudson river, on Esopus creek, opposite Rhinebeck.

Kingston, the capital of Ulster county, is pleasantly situated on Esopus creek, and was formerly called Esopus. It is about three miles from the mouth of the creek. It has the usual county buildings, a market, an academy, a bank, a church, and two printing-offices. Inhabitants about 3,000.

Poughkeepsie is the capital of Dutchess county, situated on the east side of the Hudson river, eighty-four miles south of Albany and seventy-six north of New-York. Wappinger and Fall-creeks pass through the town, and afford numerous situations for mills and manufactories. The landings,

wharves, and store-houses, are convenient, and the trade is considerable. The village is situated on a plain, and extends back about a mile from the river. In the village is an elegant court-house, an academy, a jail, five or six houses for public worship, two printing-offices, and has a population of about 3,250, and the whole town has a population of 5,500. The village of Barnegat in the town of Poughkeepsie, lies on the Hudson, near five miles south. Lime of excellent quality is made in this village in large quantities, and sent to various parts of the country.

If I mistake not, I counted twenty-two lime-kilns, most of which were very large, and so situated and constructed, as to represent a rude stone village, and when they are all in the operation of burning, not unaptly represent a village on fire, just as the flame is ready to burst through the buildings. Here were a number of vessels loading with lime for the New-York market. On the opposite side of the river, also, were a number of these smoking buildings.

Most of the inhabitants of Barnegat procure their living by the lime making business.

Newberg, the semi-capital of Orange county, is handsomely situated on the west bank of the Hudson river, ninety-four miles south of Albany, and sixty-five miles north of New-York. Population of the village may be about 4,000, and of the town 6,000, and it is rapidly increasing in numbers and in wealth. In the village are the usual county buildings, a bank, two Presbyterian, one Methodist, and one Episcopal church, and an academy.

It is regularly laid out, the streets are generally paved, it is built on the side of a hill, which rises rapidly from the river, so much so, as to make the ascent laborious and fatiguing, presenting almost the whole village at one view from the river, much in the same manner as we view a village from an eminence. The place is well built and very busy and commercial. The highlands commence a little distance below this place, and as the packet was detained here near two hours, and the sun had set just as we left the wharf, I felt much chagrined that I could not have an opportunity of passing these stupendous barriers to the Hudson by day light; and as there was no moon, I had not even the gratification of viewing them even by moon light. It would therefore, scarcely be worth while for me to attempt to give a description of one of the most stupendous, terrific and awfully sublime scenes in nature. I can only say, that we appeared to be passing a vast chasm, of the depth of two thousand feet, floating gently upon a stream of pitchy darkness, shut out from all mankind, and every habitation, except an occasional woodman's hut, from which shot now and then, a faintly glimmering light, just sufficient to show, that even here, (in places apparently inaccessible except by water,) man had fixed his solitary abode. Above, the heavens were shut out from view, except a narrow, well-defined slip of the blue canopy, which from our situation seemed uncommonly thick set with stars of dazzling brightness, resembling an immense arch sprinkled with gems of uncommon beauty and lustre, with its two extrem-

ities resting upon the two opposite points of the horizon. Far distant began to be heard the hoarse murmur of a water-fall, like the muttering of the demons of the mountains, as if offended at our approach. As we drew nearer and more near, the vociferations became louder and more imperious, echoing and re-echoing from rock to rock and from mountain to mountain, the angry deities in their rage, seeming determined to precipitate the impending rocks, with a tremendous crash, upon our defenceless bark, by the astonishing concussion of their continued brawling. As if restrained by some superior hand, the evil genii were not permitted to do us real injury, but we quietly passed without being able, from the darkness of their abodes, to discover any thing of their form, and as we receded, their voice gradually subsided, till it became imperceptible, and was lost in solemn silence; fit emblem of the grave.

As we passed West-Point about eight o'clock at night, I had no opportunity of seeing any thing more than the lights glimmering from the military station. I shall, therefore, extract a short general description of it from Morse's Gazetteer.

"*West Point* is a post-village and military post, in Cornwall, Orange county, N. Y. on the west bank of the Hudson river, at its passage through the highlands, seven miles south of Newburg, and fifty-eight north of New-York. During the revolutionary war it was strongly fortified, and deemed one of the most important posts in America, but the works are now in ruins. A military academy was established here in 1802, by the Gener-

al Government, and in 1812, twenty-five thousand dollars were appropriated for erecting buildings, and procuring a library and apparatus. The academy now consists of a professor and assistant professor of natural and experimental philosophy, a professor and assistant professor of mathematics, a professor and assistant professor of engineering, a chaplain, who is also professor of ethics, an instructor in tactics, an instructor in artillery, a surgeon, who is acting professor of chemistry, a teacher of the French language, a teacher of drawing, and a sword master. The number of cadets is limited to two hundred and fifty."

Tappan sea is an expansion of the Hudson river. At this place the river widens from a comparatively narrow stream, to one four or five miles broad, and continues of this width about eleven miles. This sea lies opposite Orangetown, about thirty miles north of New-York. As we passed down the river, we saw many places where wood was thrown down the precipice, from an elevation of some hundred feet, to the edge of the river, where it is taken on board of vessels and carried to the New-York market.

Hoboken is seven miles above New-York, on the west side of the Hudson river, in the county of Bergen, in New-Jersey. I do not know that it is peculiarly famous for any thing, except as a place of settling disputes on points of honour, or in other words, as a place noted for the number of duels which have been fought in it, and the number of lives which have been rashly, and inconsiderately thrown away upon its blood-polluted soil,

to the everlasting disgrace of the human character, and upon principles of false philosophy and false notions of honour. I cannot refrain in this place from giving my individual opinion on the subject of duelling. Men are, by many of their fellow-men, considered as cowards, if they refuse to accept a challenge, on the slightest provocation. They fear the opinion of men—they fear to be called cowards by their fellow-worms ; but they do not fear to rush rashly into the presence of their great Creator, and their just Judge, who cannot be deceived concerning the motives which actuate his creatures, and will not be influenced by their inconsistent opinions ; but will bring them into judgment assuredly, for every wicked action of which they may have been guilty, if he strictly requires them to give an account of every idle word which they may utter.

Hence it appears to me, that in one point of view, the duellist is the *greatest of all cowards*, inasmuch, as he has not resolution enough to meet the opinion of men without trembling and terror ; and in another point of view he is the most rash and daring of all mankind, inasmuch as he fearlessly rushes into the presence of him who “ knows what is in man,” who has also said, “ that he will by *no means* clear the guilty,” and of him who has Almighty power to punish those who are impenitently guilty, which must be peculiarly the case of those who die in the actual commission of one, I ought to have said, of two of the greatest crimes in the catalogue of sins which men can commit, *i. e.* *murder* and *suicide* ; for a duellist can be

considered as nothing less than a murderer and a destroyer of his own life, as he certainly imminently exposes his own life voluntarily, and it is reasonable to conclude, that he does not thus wantonly expose his own life to destruction, without at the same time intending and desiring the extinction of the life of his antagonist; if it is otherwise, he undertakes an unequal contest, and will ordinarily loose his life in the affray, and when he stands before the bar of God, what plea can he make, for thus precipitately rushing into his presence with his *own* blood upon his head, even without having had, so much as once, an opportunity of asking forgiveness for his transgression! But I have digressed, and will return to my narrative.

I have said that Hoboken was noted only as a place for settling false points of honour. I should also have said that it is a very pleasant place, and much resorted to in the warm seasons, by parties of pleasure from New-York, especially on Sabbath days, which practice is also highly reprehensible.

At this time the broad Hudson lies directly before us, whitened with canvass; on the left, the city of New-York, with its numerous shipping, and many spires, and smoking atmosphere—on the right the beautiful little city of Jersey, with its verdant banks, and an elegant row of white buildings, at a considerable remove from the shore—the delightful military post called Governor's Island, with its strong fortifications, barracks, verdant acclivities and shady walks, together with a number of other fortified Islands in va-

rious positions in the harbour; the standard of the United States at each station, gracefully waving in the breeze, and the Franklin seventy-four gun ship, peaceably lying at anchor upon the bosom of the unruffled stream.

In giving a description of New-York, I cannot do better than to take Dr. Morse's account of it, given in his Gazetteer published in 1821.

“*New-York*, the first commercial city in America, is on an island of the same name, at the confluence of the Hudson and East river, in lat. $40^{\circ} 42' 40''$ N. and lon. $74^{\circ} 0' 45''$ W. ninety miles N. E. of Philadelphia, two hundred and ten S. W. of Boston, one hundred and sixty S. Albany, three hundred and ninety S. Montreal. The city, county, and island of New-York are of the same extent. The island is fifteen miles long, and on an average one and a half miles broad, and is separated from New-Jersey by the Hudson river; from the continental part of New-York by Haerlem creek; from Long-Island by East river; and from Staten Island by New-York bay or harbour.

The compact part of the city is at the south side of the island, and extends along the Hudson, about two miles; and from the battery, in the south-west corner, along East river, nearly four miles. Its circuit is about eight miles. The streets of the ancient part, at the south end of the city, are frequently narrow and crooked, but all the northern part has been recently laid out, and with much better taste. The principal street is Broadway, which is eighty feet wide. and extends

From the Battery in a N. E. direction, through the centre of the city, for three miles.

It is generally well built, and a part of it is splendid. The houses in the city generally, were formerly, built of wood, but these are fast disappearing, and substantial brick houses, with slated roofs, rising in their places. The city is divided into ten wards.

Among the public buildings, the most prominent and important is the City Hall, which is the most beautiful edifice in the United States. It is two hundred and sixteen feet long, one hundred and five broad, and including the attic story, sixty-five feet high. The front, and both ends above the basement story, are built of white marble. The cost was five hundred thousand dollars. It is occupied by the city council in their meetings, and by different courts of law."

The room in which the mayor holds his court is superb, and the furniture rich and expensive.

In this room is a very exact portrait of the late President Washington, with his favourite white horse standing by his side, and in the back ground various implements of war. There are also, in this room and the one adjoining, portraits of all the Governors of the State of New-York, and many of the most celebrated commanders, both of the army and navy of the United States.

"The New-York hospital comprises the hospital for the reception of the sick and disabled, the lunatic asylum, and the lying-in hospital. The annual expenditure is about forty thousand dollars. During the year 1819, one thousand seven hun-

dred and twenty-five patients were admitted, of whom one thousand three hundred and twenty were cured. A valuable medical library of about three thousand volumes is attached to the institution. The alms-house is a plain stone structure, on East river, two miles from the City-Hall. It is three stories high, three hundred and twenty feet long, and fifty wide, recently erected. The expense, including the work-house, penitentiary, and other buildings connected with it, was four hundred and eighteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-one dollars. In 1806, the number of poor at this institution was one thousand four hundred and eighty-seven, and the expense of the establishment ninety thousand eight hundred and eighty-six dollars." In the centre of the alms-house, is a chapel, sufficiently large to accommodate the residents of this institution.

"The State prison is on the Hudson river, at Greenwich, about one and a half miles from the City-Hall. It is built of free stone. The number of prisoners in 1814, was four hundred and ninety-four, and in 1819, six hundred and four. The original cost of the building was two hundred and eight thousand eight hundred and forty-six dollars, and large sums have been voted by the legislature to defray the annual expence."

The New-York Institution is situated in the rear of the City Hall, but a little removed from it. "The apartments of this building are occupied by the Literary and Philosophical Society : the Historical Society, which has a library of about five thousand volumes, and a permanent fund of

twelve thousand dollars ; the American Academy of Fine Arts, which has a valuable collection of paintings and statues ; the Lyceum of Natural History, and the American Museum.”

In this museum is a very extensive and valuable collection of animals, arranged after the Linnæan system, consisting of quadrupeds, birds, fishes, serpents, and insects, and a valuable collection of artificial curiosities.

“Columbia College, formerly called King’s College, was established in 1754. It has a President, five Professors, one hundred and forty students, a library of three or four thousand volumes, and a valuable philosophical apparatus. A Faculty of Medicine was formerly attached to the institution, but in 1814 it was separated from it.

A College of Physicians and Surgeons was established in 1807, and in 1814, the Faculty of Medicine was united with it, which was formerly attached to Columbia College. Thus united, the college of Physicians has seven Professors, and is one of the most respectable and flourishing medical institutions in the country. The Elgin Botanic garden is also attached to this institution.

A Theological Seminary was instituted in this city in 1805, by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church. In 1818, it had two Professors, twenty-six students, a library of about five thousand volumes.

“Among the other institutions are a theatre,” (which was burnt in the early part of 1820, and has since been rebuilt and much improved in its appearance, and is an ornament to the city ; but it

is probable that the plays acted upon its stage, have a deletrious effect upon the morals of the people,) “ Vauxhall and other public gardens, an orphan asylum, an asylum for the deaf and dumb, a custom-house, eight market-houses, eleven banks, eleven insurance companies, numerous charitable and benevolent institutions for the relief of the poor, the sick, the aged, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger.—The New-York Society Library contains about fifteen thousand volumes, valued at more than forty thousand dollars. In 1817, there were published in the city, seven daily newspapers, five semi-weekly, and five weekly, besides several monthly literary and religious magazines. There are fifty-seven houses of public worship for various denominations.”

The Battery is a beautiful open space or green, handsomely laid out into gravel walks, and ornamented by numerous trees of various kinds. It is at the south-west point of the city, directly opposite to Governor's Island. From it there is a fine view of the harbour, the shipping, the various beautiful islands and military stations in the harbour, the Hudson on the West, the city of Jersey, and the shores of New-Jersey, to a great extent; Staten Island in front, at the distance of fifteen miles; the East river, and the elevated shore and verdant hills of Long Island, with the flourishing town of Brooklyn, and the numerous country-seats in its vicinity.

The Battery furnishes a pleasant and salubrious promenade, and is much frequented by the citizens in the warm season, for the purpose of enjoy-

ing the luxury of a refreshing sea-breeze, and the beauty of the scenery.

The Park is another handsome green, in the centre of the city, containing about four acres, and laid out with much taste, and is at this time surrounded by a substantial and elegant iron fence. It is a fashionable resort in the cool of the evening.

“ The Elgin Botanic Garden is three and a half miles from the City-Hall, and contains twenty acres. It was founded in 1801, by Dr. David Hosack, and was purchased by the State in 1810, for seventy-four thousand two hundred and sixty-eight; dollars and presented to the Medical College.

New-York harbour is a large bay, nine miles long and four miles broad, which spreads before the city on the south side, having Long-Island on the east, and Staten-Island and New-Jersey on the west. On the north it receives the Hudson ; on the north-east it communicates with Long-Island sound through East river ; on the west with New-ark bay, through the Kills ; on the south with the Atlantic ocean, through the narrows. It embosoms several small islands, as Governor’s Island, Bed-low’s Island, and Ellis’ island, near the city of New-York, on each of which are fortifications.

The harbour is deep enough for the largest vessels, well secured from winds and storms, sufficiently spacious for the most numerous fleets, and the currents are so rapid, that it is seldom obstructed by ice ; not having been frozen over since 1780.

New-York is admirably situated for commerce, on an excellent harbour, at the mouth of a noble

river, with an extensive, fertile, and populous back country. It imports most of the goods consumed in the State of New-York, the Northern half of New-Jersey, and the Western parts of New-England; and exports the produce of the same section. This city owns more shipping than any other in the Union, and more than half as much as the city of London.

The amount of shipping in 1816, was 299,617 tons. The revenue from the customs, collected at this port, is about one fourth of the whole revenue of the United States; in 1815, it was \$14,409,790. The revenue of the city, for city purposes, for the year ending May 12th, 1817, was \$483,011.

Few cities in the world have increased so regularly and rapidly as New-York. In 1697 the population was 4,302; in 1756, 13,040; in 1790, 33,131; in 1800, 60,489; in 1805, 75,770; in 1810, 96,373; in 1820, 123,706:" and at this time, Sept. 1821, to more than 130,000.

The inhabitants are of nearly all the nations of Europe, and probably some from Asia, and about 10,000 descendants from African parents.

One third are descended from the people of New-England. The next most numerous are the Dutch and Scotch, then the English, Irish and French, and many Jews.

"For several years past, the State of New-York has been engaged in improvements of its inland navigation, on a scale never before witnessed in this country, and with an energy and liberality which excite universal admiration. A

grand canal is now in progress, which will open a water communication from Hudson river to Lake Erie, and another is already completed, uniting the same river with Lake Champlain. The Erie canal, when completed will be three hundred and fifty miles long. The route is as follows:—Beginning at Albany on the Hudson, it passes up the West bank of that river nearly to the mouth of the Mohawk: then along the South bank of the Mohawk, through the counties of Albany, Schenectady, Montgomery, Herkimer, and Oneida, to Rome. From Rome it proceeds in a South-West direction, and crosses Oneida creek into Madison county, where it turns to the West, and passes through Onondaga county, approaching within a mile and an half of Salina, at the South end of Onondaga lake. It crosses Seneca river at Montezuma, and passing by Lyons and Palmyra, strikes the Genesee at Rochester. West of the Genesee river, it runs on the South side of the ridge road,” mentioned in a former part of this work, “and parallel with it for sixty miles, and then turning South, joins Tonewanta creek, eleven miles from its mouth in Niagara river. The channel of the Tontewanta will be made use of for these eleven miles, and the canal will then proceed in a Southerly direction from the mouth of the Tontewanta, along the East bank of the Niagara river to Buffalo on Lake Erie.”

“This route is divided into three sections. The Western section extends from Buffalo to Montezuma on the Seneca river, one hundred and sixty miles; through this distance the level of the canal

uniformly descends from the lake, and the whole descent is one hundred and ninety-four feet by twenty-five locks," having a descent on an average of $7\frac{1}{2}\frac{9}{5}$ feet each lock. "The middle section extends from Montezuma to Rome, seventy-seven miles : through this distance the level of the canal uniformly ascends, and the whole ascent is forty-nine feet. The Eastern section extends from Rome to Albany, one hundred and thirteen miles ; through this distance the level of the canal uniformly descends ; and the whole descent is four hundred and nineteen feet by forty-six locks," averaging $9\frac{5}{46}$ feet to each lock. "The aggregate of rise and fall is therefore six hundred and sixty-two feet, and the difference of levels between Lake Erie and Hudson river, five hundred and sixty-four feet," which is to be ascended by means of locks.

"The canal is forty feet wide on the surface, twenty-eight feet at bottom," and carries four feet water. "It was estimated by the commissioners in 1817, that the whole expense would be \$4,881,733 : viz. the Western section, \$1,756,862 ; the Middle section, \$853,186 ; the Eastern section, \$2,196,690 ; and general expenses \$75,000. The average expense per mile, according to this estimate, was \$13,800. The canal was commenced on the 4th of July 1817. In 1819 the whole of the Middle section was completed, and the part of the Eastern section between Utica and Rome ; a distance in all of ninety-six miles. For sixty-seven miles of this space, the canal proceeds on the summit level, without a single lock.

The original estimate of the expense of these ninety-six miles was \$1,021,851; the actual cost was \$1,125,983. Barges of seventy tons burden, drawn by two horses, at the rate of five miles an hour, now convey passengers from Utica to Montezuma, a distance of ninety-six miles.

During the year 1820, fifty-one miles of the Western section, including the whole distance from Genesee river to Montezuma, except about nine miles, was either completed, or under contract. During the same year, thirty-one miles of the Eastern section, beginning at Utica, and extending Eastwardly along the valley of the Mohawk, was put in such a state of forwardness, as to insure its completion in the course of the year 1821. In their report of March 1821, the commissioners anticipate the entire completion of the canal, before the close of the year 1823.

Among the benefits of this grand enterprise, it is expected that besides furnishing an outlet for the agricultural produce of vast and fertile regions, *salt* may be supplied to the Atlantic States from the great salt works at Salina, cheaper than from abroad.

In the progress of the canal also, gypsum of the best quality has been discovered, and in sufficient quantity for the supply of the whole United States."

New-Haven, Sept. 29th, 1821.

DEAR SIR,

Leaving New-York at six o'clock, P. M. in one of the packets which ply between this place and New-York, I arrived in this city in safety, after a pleasant passage, about two o'clock in the afternoon of the 29th.

The passage through the East river is highly beautiful, and picturesque. The country on both sides of the river is fertile, and in general well cultivated. There are a number of small islands in the stream, most of which have one or more houses upon them, and are cultivated. The banks are very verdant, and there are many elegant villas on each side of the river, and the domains are fancifully, tastefully, and elegantly laid out, with flights of stone steps leading from the water's edge to the masions, or to the summit of the precipitous shores.

The Alms-house makes a very grand and beautiful appearance from the water as we pass along the river.

Hurlgate is a remarkable straight between Long-Island and the main land, where, at about half tide, as the current flows either way, there are a number of whirlpools and eddies, and the water is wonderfully agitated, and the roaring of the waters may be distinctly heard for a considerable distance. At high and low tide, the water is perfectly smooth and calm.

This place is eight miles from New-York, a little distance before the river opens into Long-Island Sound.

The tides meet at Throg's Point, a few miles above.

This passage is almost always crowded with vessels of different sizes, passing to and from New-York.

As we pass through the Sound, we have a view of the shores of Long-Island and Connecticut.

For a considerable distance the shores of Long-Island are high sand-hills, and the country not remarkably fruitful, and there are no villages to be seen.

On the contrary, on the Connecticut side, the country is fertile, the scenery is beautiful, and a number of pretty villages are to be seen at various distances situated near the shore. Among them is Black-Rock, which, next to New-London, has the best harbour of any place on the Sound. Besides this place, there are two other harbours in Fairfield, viz. Mill River and Saugatuck. Milford is another town on the Sound, about ten miles from New-Haven, with a tolerable harbour. This is a fine township of land.

New-Haven, lying at the head of a bay which makes up into the country four miles, makes a very delightful appearance as we approach it from the water. The surrounding scenery is both beautiful and grand. The various advantage which this City possesses are such as to render it one of the most desirable residences in the United States.

ADVICE TO IMMIGRANTS.

To those who are desirous of relinquishing the privileges of the Atlantic States, for the sake of removing to an unsettled part of the country, it is my advice that they should stop in the Western part of the State of New-York, in preference to going any farther West. This I give for a number of reasons.

From a knowledge of the fertility of the soil of that State, I am convinced they will find none better farther West; and in that part of Ohio, called the Western Reserve, or New-Connecticut, I am well assured, that the soil is not in general, of more than half the intrinsic value of the new lands in New-York.

New lands can be purchased as cheaply in the State of New-York as in the State of Ohio, and upon as advantageous terms, as much territory still remains to be occupied in that State.

The expense of moving is much less, and it will be much less expensive returning, if any should be disposed so to do.

It is much nearer a good market, or good markets, as provisions may be sent either to New-York City by the canal and the Hudson, or to Montreal by Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence or Cataraqui.

Much good land, as good as any one needs, is still unimproved, and for sale in the immediate vicinity of the Erie canal, and a very considerable proportion of the expense of transportation of articles each way will be saved, and thus property can be faster acquired, and consequently there will a greater stimulus be given to industry.

Salt may be procured for a mere trifle any where upon the canal, and abundance of plaster of paris may be had easily, and that of good quality, for the purpose of improving the land where it requires improvement.

The advantages for religious and literary improvement are much greater.

Many other advantages might be mentioned, but it is not necessary.

Above all, I would recommend to all, before moving on with their families, to go and view the country for themselves, as in the nature of things, it is scarcely possible, that any two persons would be equally pleased with the same place, consequently no man can see for his neighbour, or friend.



B.P.L. Bindery

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